ペンとチョコレート ねむようこ

PEN AND CHOCOLATE NEMU YOKO

2

MCS

ペンとチョコレート 2

PEN AND CHOCOLATE 2

ねむようこ

NEMU YOKO

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ねむようこ

NEMU YOKO

6月8日生まれ。
2004年デビュー。
代表作は「年齢詐称の無謀恋」
「年齢詐称の危険接近」
（ともに秋田書店刊）など。
現在、女性誌を中心に活躍中。
猫を飼う。

「担当を好きになっても幸せにはなれないよ」

ついに担当編集者・秋元への恋心に気づいたフタバ。
だが彼には印刷会社の営業をしている恋人がいた。
さらに漫画家仲間にも、担当との恋は苦難続きだと釘をさされてしまう。
そんな時、フタバと秋元を脅かすとんでもない事件とは…!?
自分に向けられる、その言葉と優しさは、仕事上のもの…？
仕事とプライベートの狭間で揺れる漫画家の恋、実録編！

ねむようこ

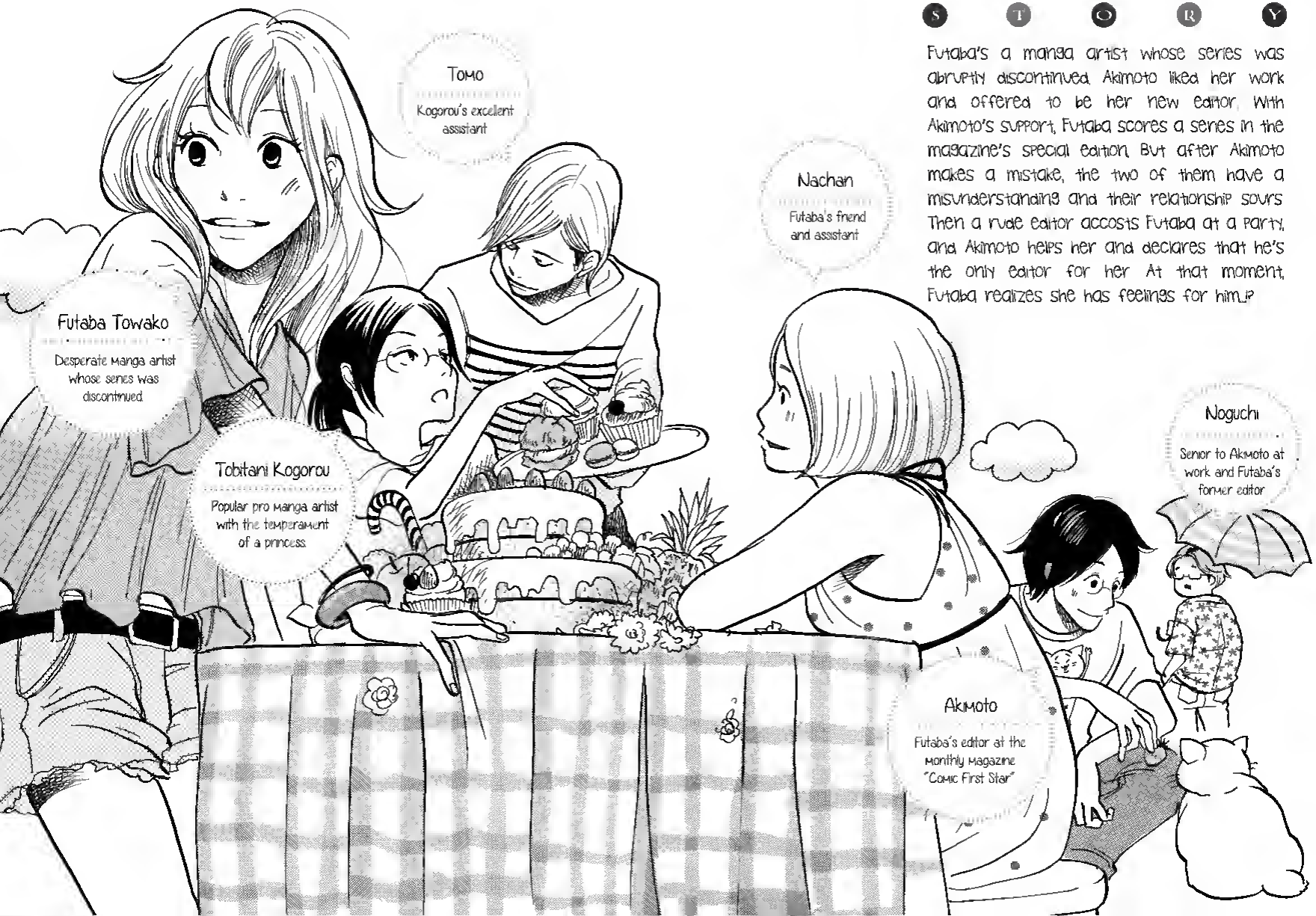
MCS

HOUBUNSHA

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
BY NEMU YOUKO
CHAPTER 11
Scans & translations
Kalendel
Raw preps: tim
Editing: Ximena
QC: Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

Pen to Chocolate 2

Nemu Youko


Tomo
Kogorou's excellent assistant
Nachan
Futaba's friend and assistant
Futaba Towako
Desperate manga artist whose series was discontinued
Tobitani Kogorou
Popular pro manga artist with the temperament of a princess
Noguchi
Senior to Akimoto at work and Futaba's former editor
Akimoto
Futaba's editor at the monthly magazine "Comic First Star"

STORY

Futaba's a manga artist whose series was abruptly discontinued. Akimoto liked her work and offered to be her new editor. With Akimoto's support, Futaba scores a series in the magazine's special edition. But after Akimoto makes a mistake, the two of them have a misunderstanding and their relationship sours. Then a rude editor accosts Futaba at a party, and Akimoto helps her and declares that he's the only editor for her. At that moment, Futaba realizes she has feelings for him...!

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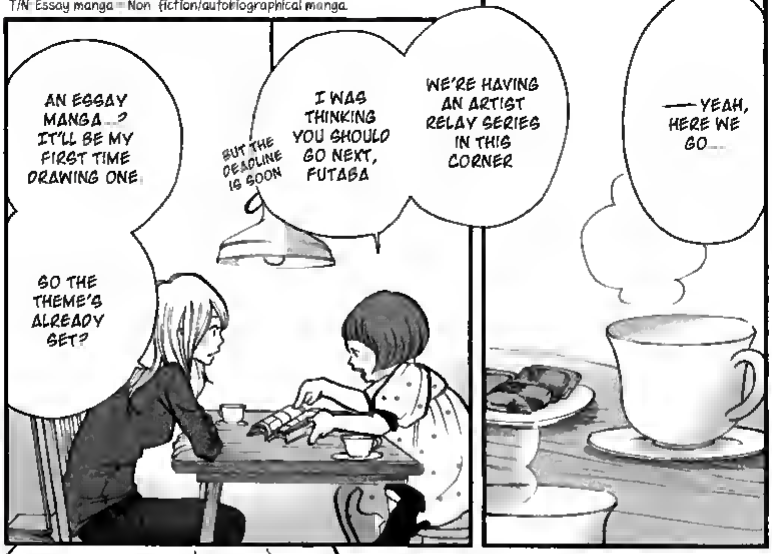
final episode 165

Afterword 182

T/N: Essay manga = Non fiction/autobiographical manga.


AN ESSAY MANGA...? IT'LL BE MY FIRST TIME DRAWING ONE.
SO THE THEME'S ALREADY SET?
BUT THE DEADLINE IS SOON
I WAS THINKING YOU SHOULD GO NEXT, FUTABA
WE'RE HAVING AN ARTIST RELAY SERIES IN THIS CORNER
—YEAH, HERE WE GO...

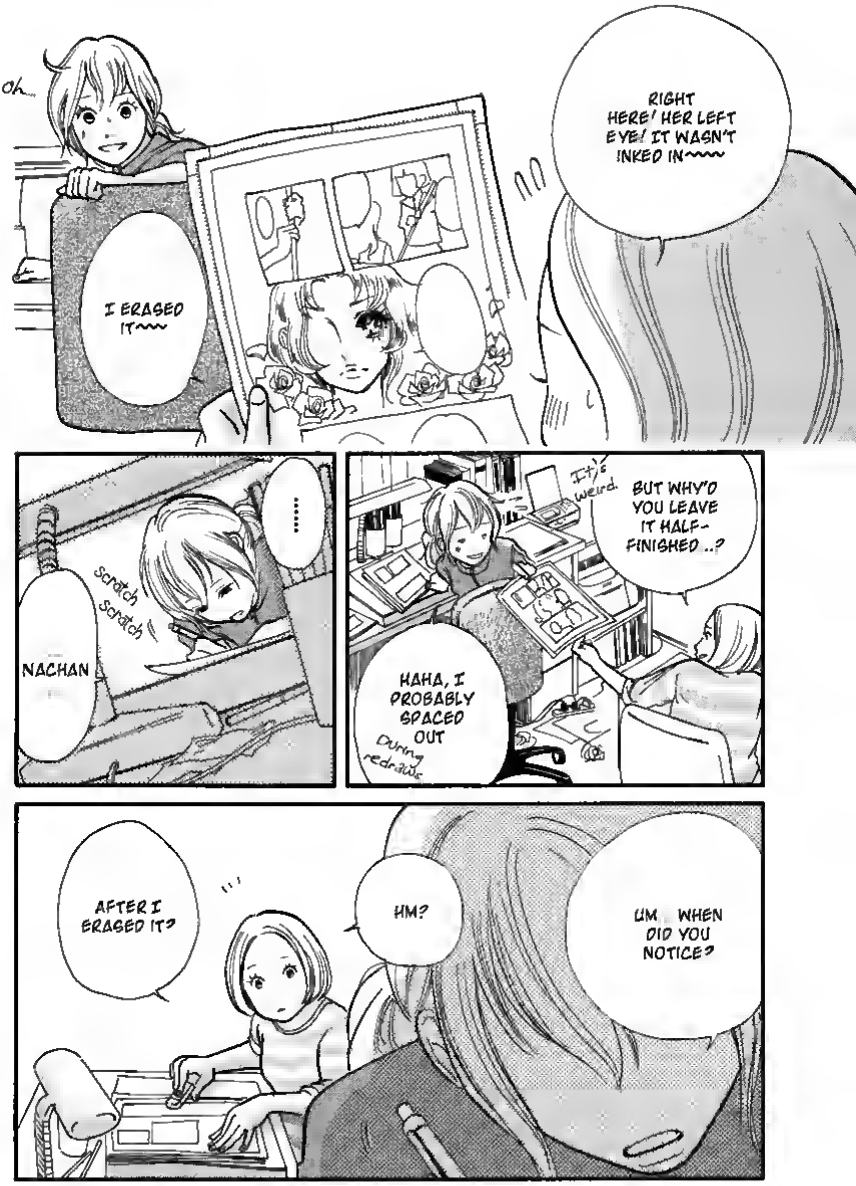
episode.11

MY "SECRET LOVE" IS DEFINITELY...
I usually draw for Monthly Peach magazine
My Heart Won't Stop Racing #3, now on sale!
HELLO! THIS TIME IT'S MARUYAMA TAMAKO DRAWING
NO.5
Artist Essay Relay
My Secret Love
DUN
!
THE LOVE BETWEEN ME AND MY EDITOR♥.
Former editor-in-chief
A little of the hot wine
I said it!
Shhh!
NOW NOW, KEEP READING
SO... WH... WHAT HAP-PENED?
100% REAL
Aha ha
And is it OK for you to draw it?
He called me out of the blue and yelled at me.
T... TAMA... IS THIS FOR REAL!?

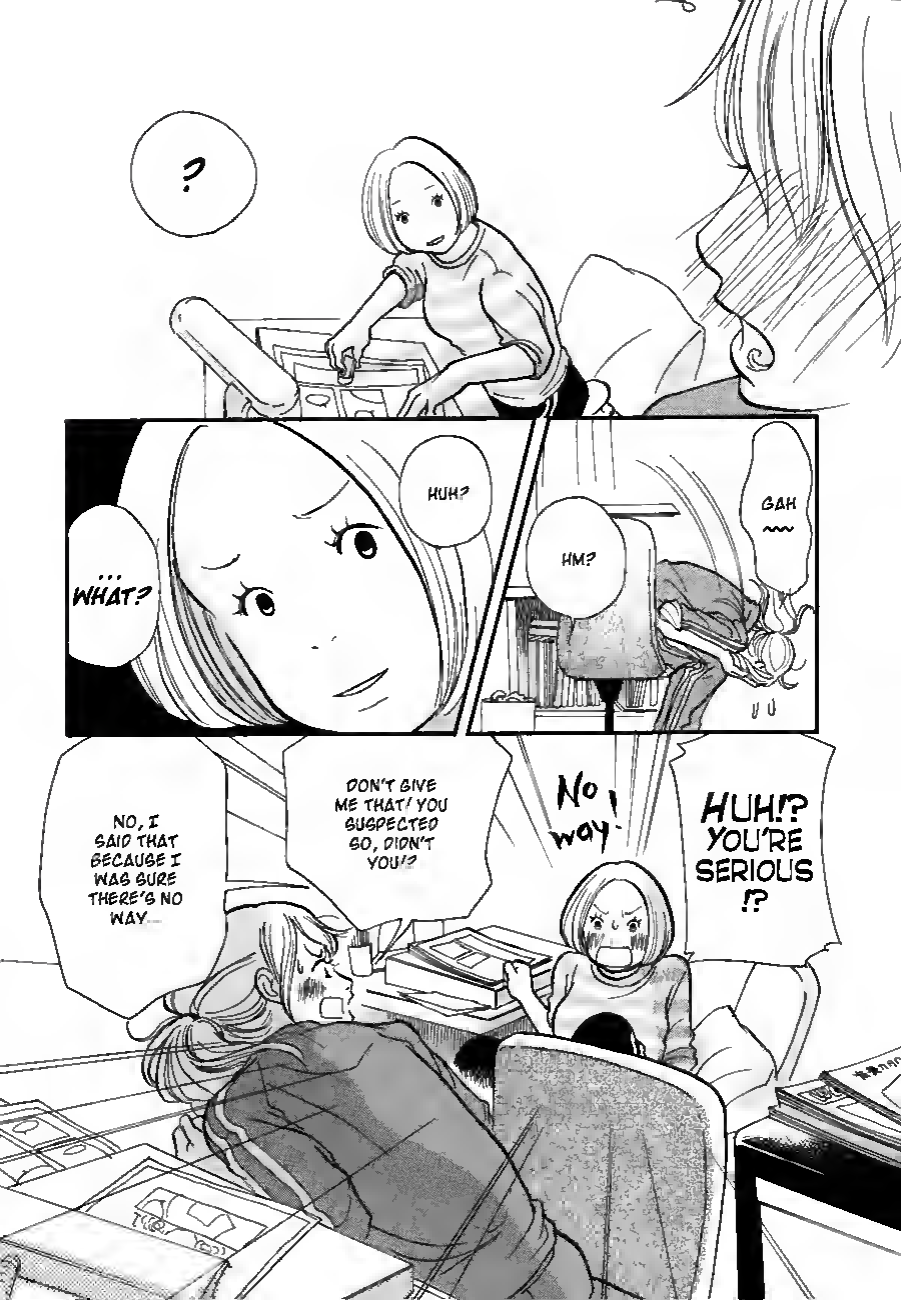
I DID USE THE MATERIAL TO DRAW A STORY!
Just in case...
Oh, and
Field trips are awesome ♥!♥
WE EVEN WENT ON TRIPS UNDER THE GUISE OF "RESEARCH"! ♡
Let's use this sunset for the closing scene next chapter.
Yeah ♡
WE HAD OUR MEETINGS AT TRENDY CAFES, SO THEY FELT LIKE DATES.
I HAD SO MUCH FUN BACK THEN
IT WAS ALSO REALLY IRRITATING WHEN HE ACTED LIKE MY BOSS EVEN IN MY PRIVATE LIFE.
You know, Tamaki...
Finding fault with me and such
WE BOTH BECAME MORE AND MORE RELAXED, AND OUR WORK SUFFERED...
Oh... I didn't finish the storyboard!
Sorry!
HOW-EVER.
I DRAW MANGA FOR GIRLS, TOO. AND REALLY, WHEN YOU'RE BURNING WITH LOVE'S PASSION, YOUR MANGA COMES OUT RADIANT AS WELL.
And truthfully, the reader surveys were good ♡
.....
IN THE END MY SERIES WAS CANCELLED, AND WHEN THEY DISCOVERED WE'D BEEN DATING, HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER MAGAZINE.

glance
WELL... AS SOMEONE WHO'S HAD EXPERIENCE IN THE MATTER, LET ME TELL YOU THIS...
I WAS YOUNG...
NOW I KNOW THAT DAMAGING THE WORK LIKE THAT IS COMPLETELY UNPROFESSIONAL...
FALLING FOR YOUR EDITOR WON'T END WITH A HAPPILY EVER AFTER
HUH...

REAAALLY?
WH... WHAT? I'M HARDLY...
sniff sniff
GAH~ I REALLY AM SICK OF ALL THIS ERASING EVERY SINGLE TIME~~~
rub rub rub rub rub rub rub rub rub
But for me...
OH NO!
WH... WHAT!?
OH— BUT IT'S SUPPOSED TO RUIN YOUR EYES
YEAH!
FUTABA, HOW ABOUT YOU TRY TRACING IT?
MM...


Oh...
I ERASED IT~~
RIGHT HERE! HER LEFT EYE! IT WASN'T INKED IN~~~
NACHAN
scratch scratch
.....
It's weird.
BUT WHY'D YOU LEAVE IT HALF-FINISHED..?
HAHA, I PROBABLY SPACED OUT during redraws
AFTER I ERASED IT?
HM?
UM... WHEN DID YOU NOTICE?

WHAT?
~~YOU KNOW...
AH... YEAH, I SHOULD'VE NOTICED BEFORE I ERASED IT. SORRY ABOUT THAT.
CREAK
NO NO, NOT ABOUT THAT...
WELL...
?
ME LIKING AK...
YOU KNOW...
C'MON,
AKIMOTO ...
ABOUT THAT.


?
GAH ～～
HM?
HUH?
...WHAT?
HUH!? YOU'RE SERIOUS !?
No way!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! YOU SUSPECTED SO, DIDN'T YOU!?
NO, I SAID THAT BECAUSE I WAS SURE THERE'S NO WAY...

WHAAAT?
.....
NACHAN, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
OH NO, OH NO!
SO THIS ISN'T PROFESSIONAL OF ME AT ALL...
BECAUSE HE'S MY EDITOR, YOU KNOW?
FUTABA!
Cartoonist meeting
MAYBE I CAN STILL REVERSE MY FEELINGS FOR HIM...
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO THAT!?

Run with it!
Before you were a professional artist, you were a woman!
GRAB
BUT...
M-maybe you're right-
YEAH!
Y-YOU THINK SO...?
Bed Head
Five-o'clock Shadow 30%
Physically Weak
Weird Ts
WOOSH...
That's rude...
WHY AKIMOTO?
Simple Question

I'M THE ONLY EDITOR FOR YOU!
WH... WHY HIM...?
—WELL, THAT'S HOW I FEEL...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
—AH!
Y-YES. ! I WANT TO WORK WITH YOU!
HIS MIDDLE FINGER...
GREAT..

HUH?
HIS MIDDLE FINGER?
ARE SURPRISINGLY BIG...
RIGHT AROUND HERE... THE BONES...
I'LL ESCORT YOU HOME, FUTABA.
AND...
VRRMM...
alone
clack
EKODA, PLEASE.

20% Better!
Pinch
Chink
YEAH..
HIS EYES MUST GET TIRED AND..
WHEN HE TAKES OFF HIS GLASSES,
HE SEEMS KIND OF NAKED..
AND..

Hey!
Hey!
HUH...?
BUT...
BUT YOU SAID HE LOOKED NAKED!!
DON'T GET EMBARRASSED JUST LISTENING!!
GAH... HOLD IT!
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT AKIMOTO'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND?
Pelican Printing
DON'T THINK IT'S GOING WELL...
Though I don't know.
YEAH— BUT I SORT OF...

clack
HELLO! PELICAN PRINTING!
tap
tap
Silence...
HM?
tap
tap
tap
EXCUSE ME! IS ANYONE HERE?
zzz
.....

.....
HELLO! PELICAN HERE!
AH!
JUMP
S... SORRY ...
OH...
GOOD MORNING, AKIMOTO
He he
he he
I FINALLY CAUGHT YOU.

Lovely Strange Dark
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CHAPTER 12
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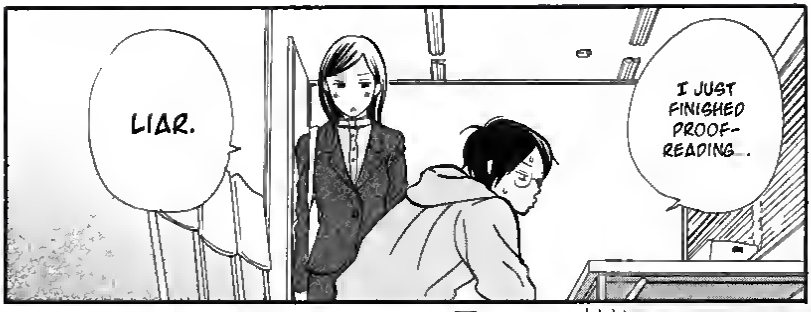
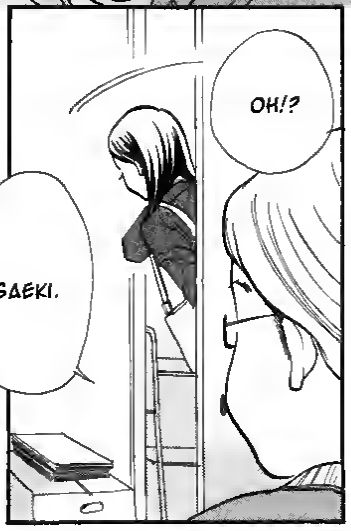
AKIMOTO
...
MAKE SURE YOU MANAGE YOUR SCHEDULE
SO YOU DON'T LEAVE ME HANGING NEXT TIME.
Pelican Printing


LIAR.
I JUST FINISHED PROOF-READING...

CAN WE..
HERE AND NOW IS FINE.

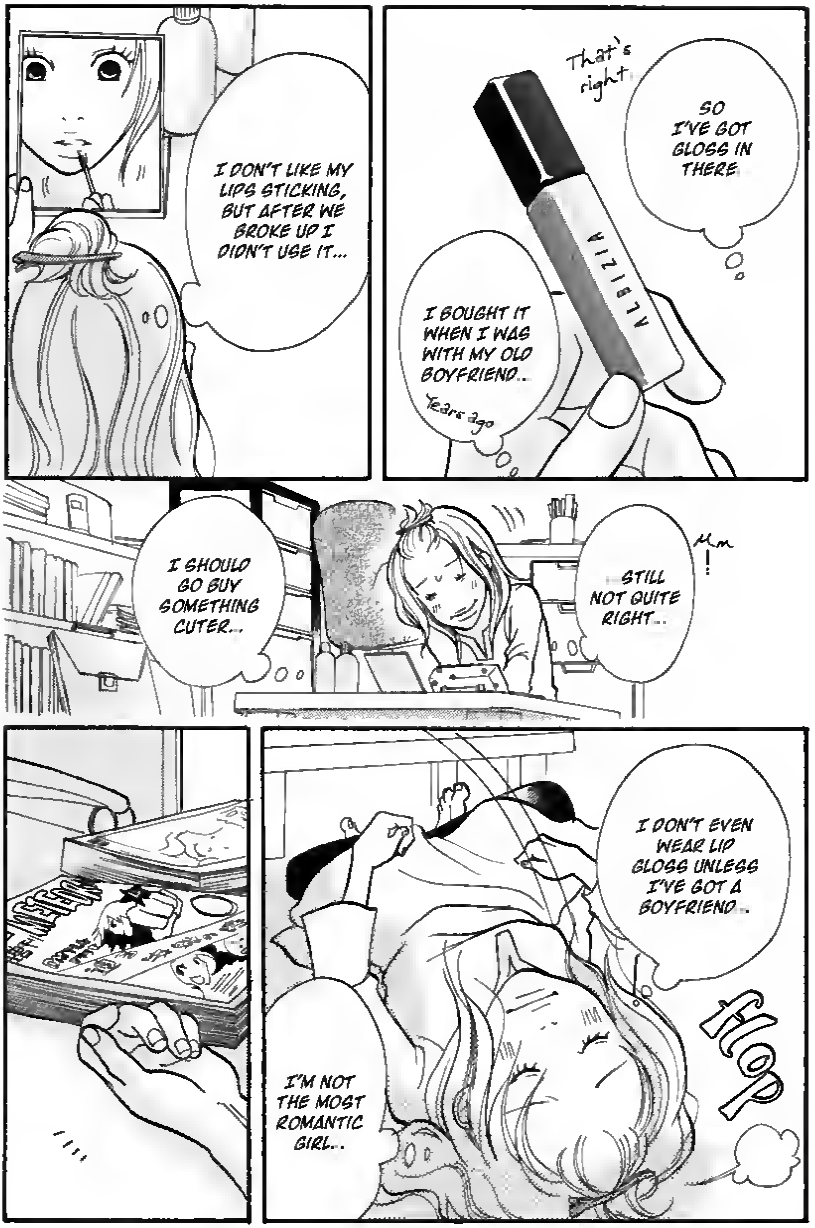
SAEKI.


OH!?

MAN~~
AM I~~
HUN~~GRY
~~~
cla ck
~~~

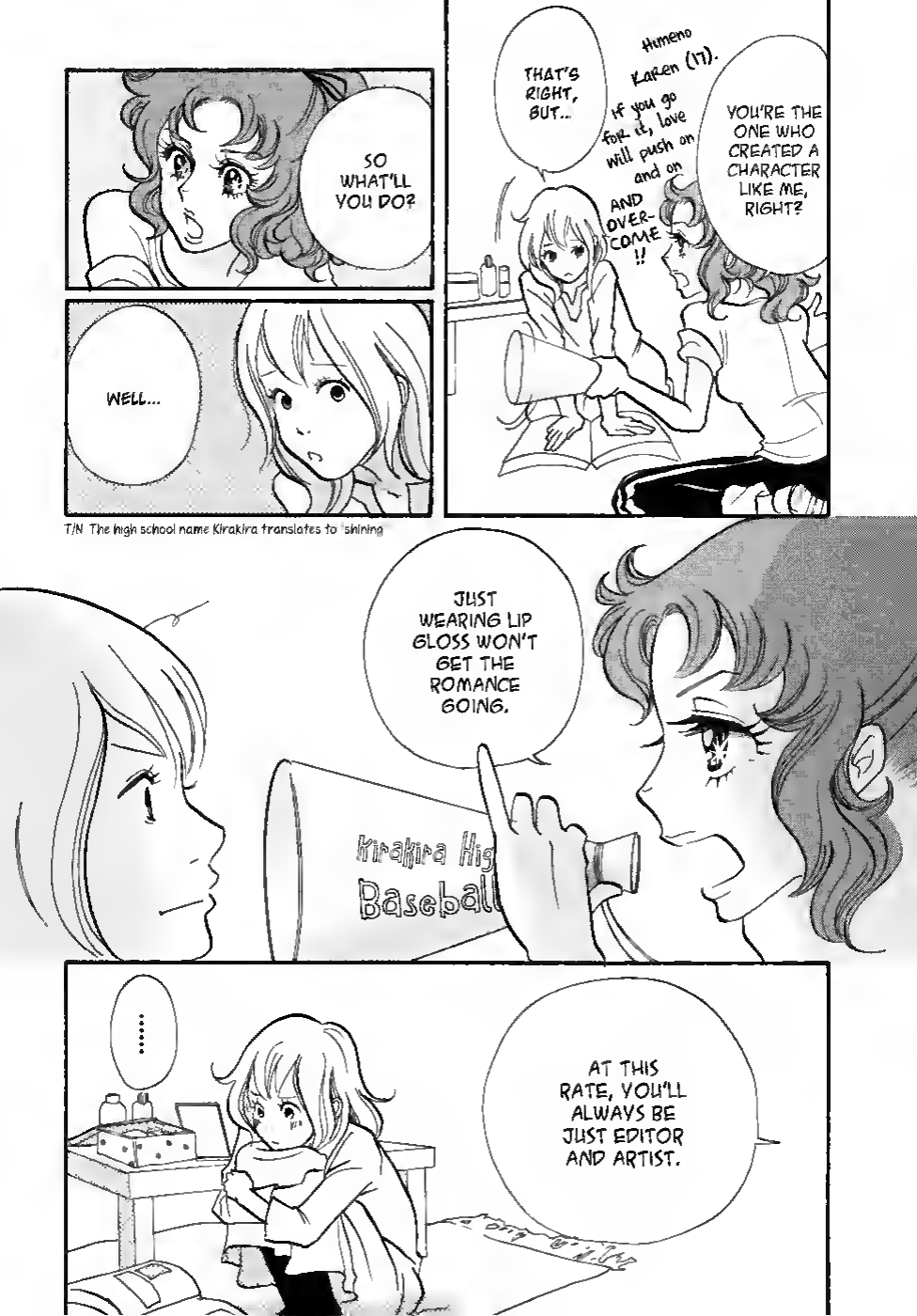
And my back pain...
.....
WELL THEN, I'M OFF.
NOGUCHI, PERFECT HERE.
Color proofs for Deliver Guy
I TRIED OUT THOSE LOWER BACK EXERCISES YOU TAUGHT ME THE OTHER DAY.
That's right!
thru
st
I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE, AKIMOTO!
WHOA!
!
.....
crack...

.....
OH...
click
click
WHAT A PATHETIC COLLECTION
~~~~....
~~~~

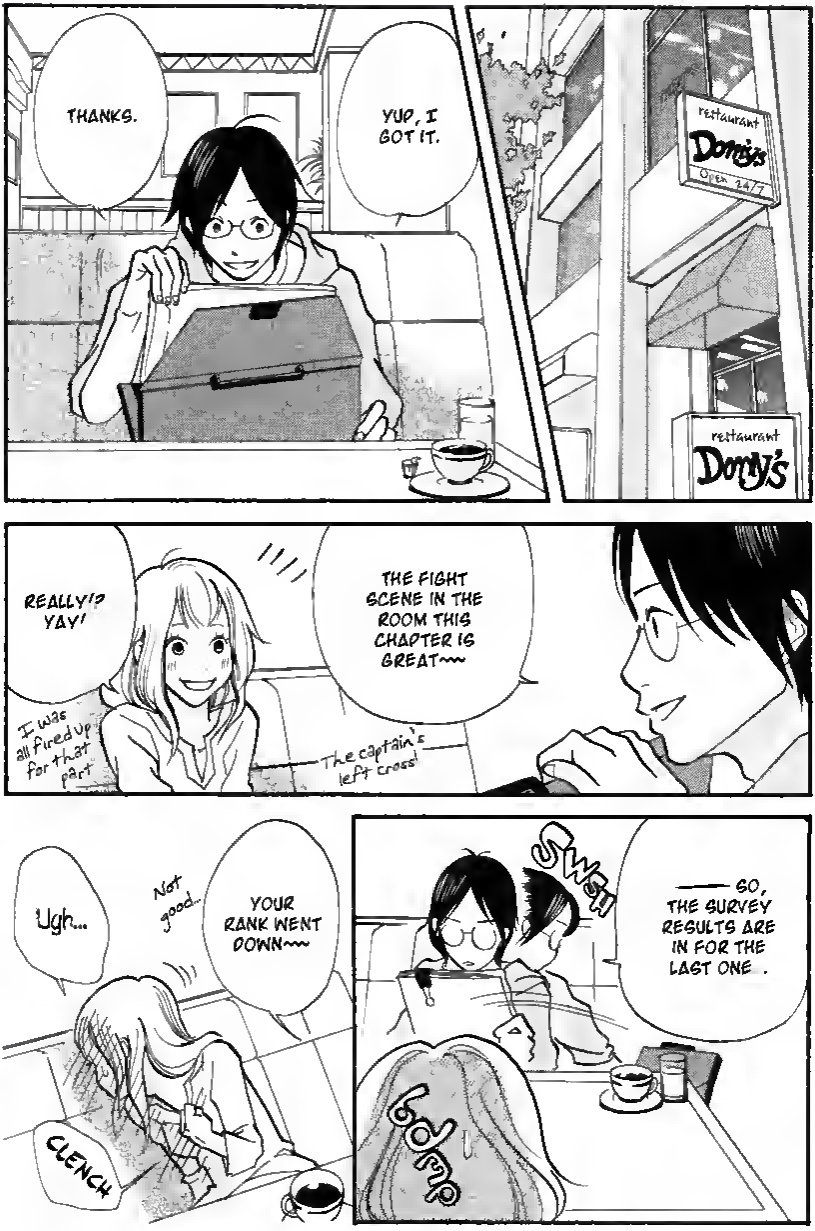

I DON'T LIKE MY LIPS STICKING, BUT AFTER WE BROKE UP I DIDN'T USE IT...
That's right.
SO I'VE GOT GLOSS IN THERE
ALBIZIA
I BOUGHT IT WHEN I WAS WITH MY OLD BOYFRIEND..
Years ago
I SHOULD GO BUY SOMETHING CUTER..
STILL NOT QUITE RIGHT..
Hm!
I DON'T EVEN WEAR LIP GLOSS UNLESS I'VE GOT A BOYFRIEND..
I'M NOT THE MOST ROMANTIC GIRL..
Flop

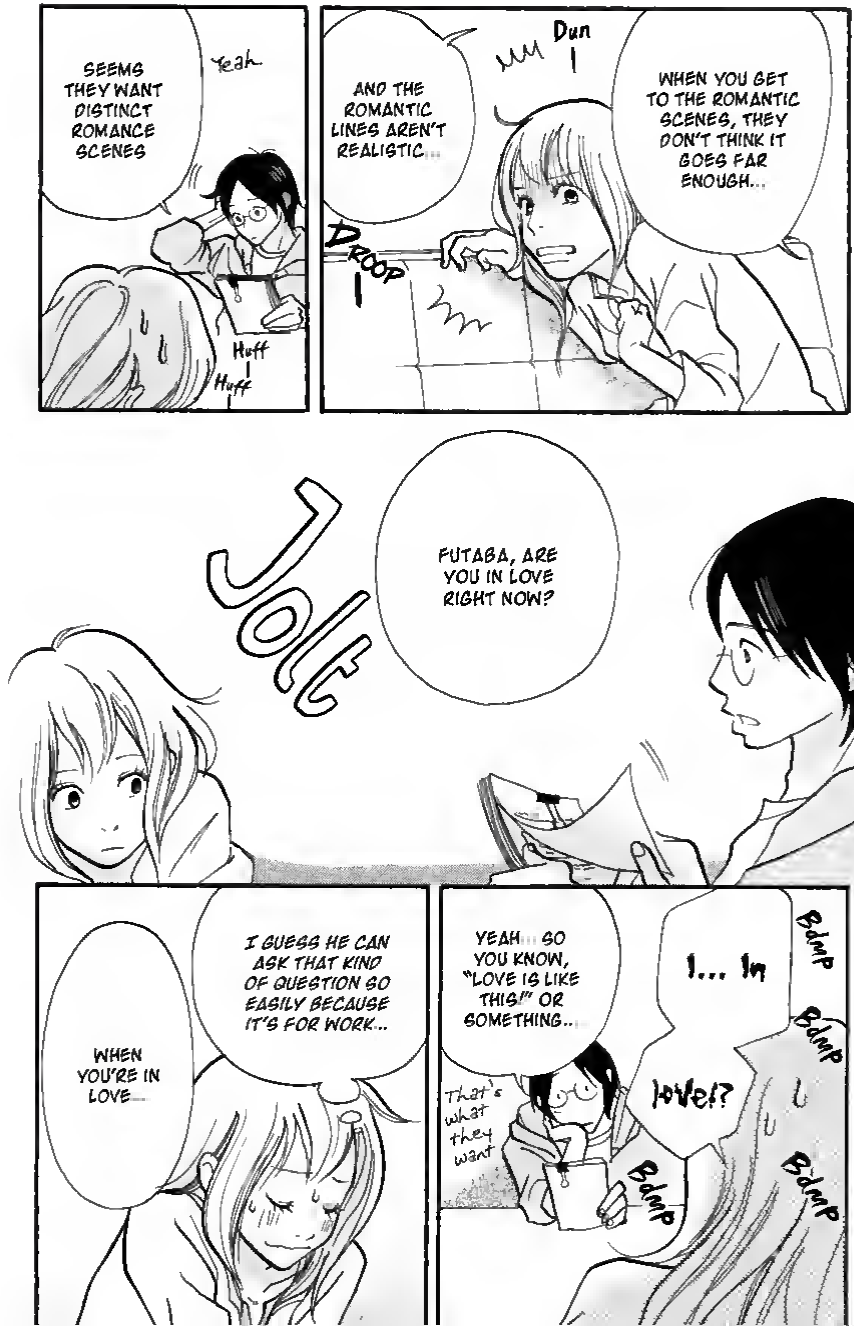
flip
STILL..
THAT'S WHY MY STORIES WIND UP IN A MAGAZINE FOR GUYS, HUH..
flip
The girls in my stories fall in love at the drop of a hat.
They're way better at it than I am.
IT'S STRANGE.
YET THE ONE WHO CREATES THESE GIRLS IS NONE OTHER THAN ME.

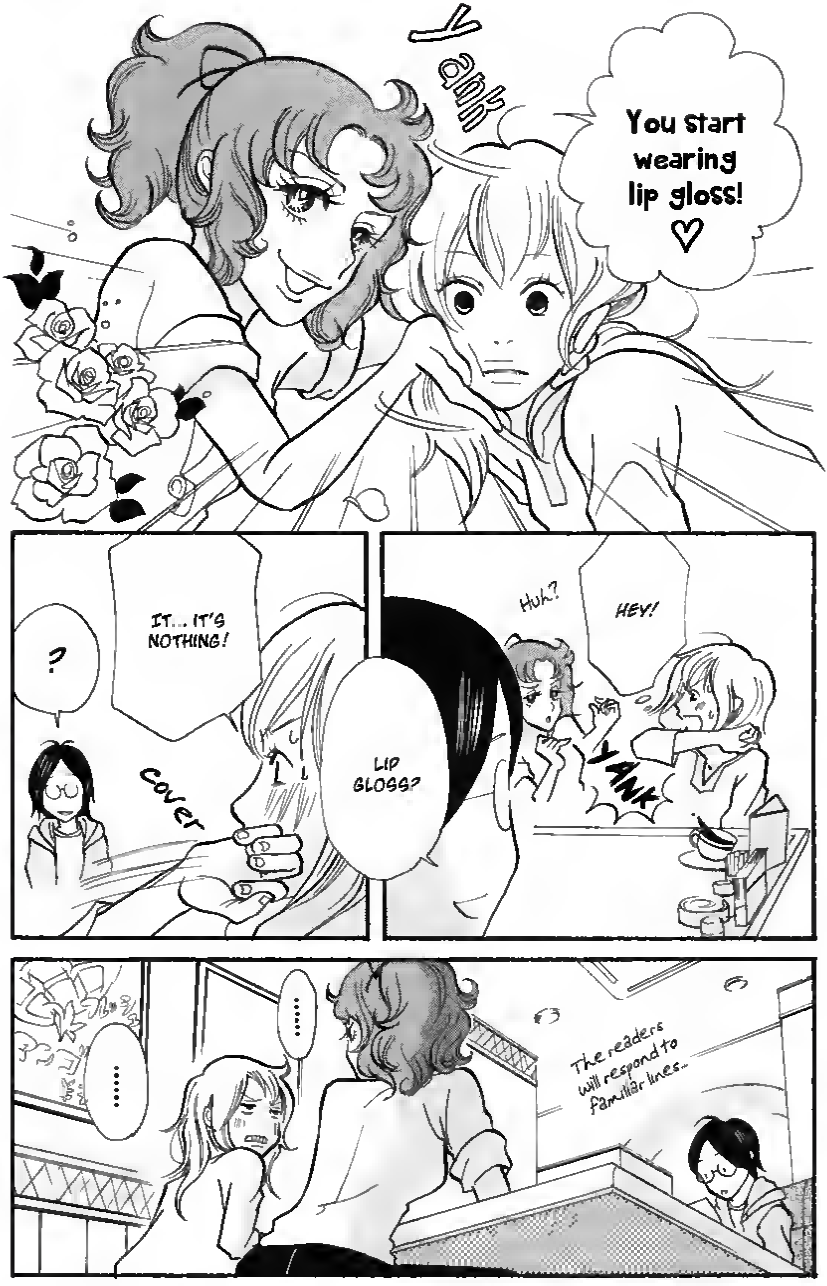
IF I WERE YOU, I'D TELL HIM HOW I FEEL WHEN I GO DELIVER THE CLEAN COPY TODAY..
KAREN..
OK.
IF YOU HIT A HOME RUN IN THE NEXT MATCH, I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS. ♡
crack
Whish!!
WAIT, KAREN!
IF YOU DON'T GET YOURSELF IN THE BATTER'S BOX, YOU CAN'T MAKE THE HIT! ☆
Megaphone
OF COURSE!


SO WHAT'LL YOU DO?
WELL...
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT...
Hmeno Karen (17).
If you go for it, love will push on and on
AND OVER-COME !!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CREATED A CHARACTER LIKE ME, RIGHT?
JUST WEARING LIP GLOSS WON'T GET THE ROMANCE GOING.
Kirakira Hig
Baseball
.....
AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE JUST EDITOR AND ARTIST.

T/N The high school name Kirakira translates to 'shining'

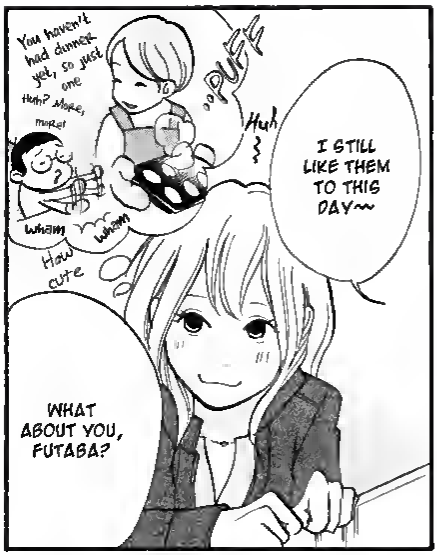

THANKS.
YUP, I GOT IT.
restaurant
Donny's
Open 24/7
restaurant
Donny's
REALLY!? YAY!
I was all fired up for that part
THE FIGHT SCENE IN THE ROOM THIS CHAPTER IS GREAT~~~
The captain's left cross!
Ugh...
Not good...
YOUR RANK WENT DOWN~~~
CLENCH
SWISH
—— SO, THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN FOR THE LAST ONE .
bdmp


SEEMS THEY WANT DISTINCT ROMANCE SCENES
Yeah
Huff
Huff
AND THE ROMANTIC LINES AREN'T REALISTIC...
Dun
DROOP
WHEN YOU GET TO THE ROMANTIC SCENES, THEY DON'T THINK IT GOES FAR ENOUGH...
Jolt
FUTABA, ARE YOU IN LOVE RIGHT NOW?
I GUESS HE CAN ASK THAT KIND OF QUESTION SO EASILY BECAUSE IT'S FOR WORK...
WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE...
YEAH... SO YOU KNOW, "LOVE IS LIKE THIS!" OR SOMETHING...
That's what they want
I... In love!?
BdmP
BdmP
BdmP


Yank
You start wearing lip gloss! ♡
IT... IT'S NOTHING!
?
Cover
LIP GLOSS?
Huh?
HEY!
YANK
.....
.....
The readers will respond to familiar lines...

OH, SORRY!
IS THIS YOURS, SIR...?
UM... SIR...
SO IF YOU CAN FINISH THE PLOT OF THE NEXT CHAPTER BY FRIDAY...
THAT WAS CLOSE!
I really spaced out.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO FORGET THINGS, AKIMOTO.
And the reader surveys are loaded with personal data, too.
ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO DROP BY THE DEPARTMENT STORE ON THE WAY HOME, SO I'LL LEAVE YOU HERE.
Beep
AKIMOTO!
OH... I WANTED TO GO BUY SOME LIP GLOSS, TOO...
I HAVE TO RUN AN ERRAND, TOO!
CAN I COME WITH YOU!?
!
CLOMP
SURE, OF COURSE
~~~
Let's go.
~~~

OH, ARE THEY SNACKS FOR KOGOROU?
So she likes Japanese pastries too
The green tea and sweet bean filled ones
I WANT TO BUY SOME SPONGE CAKE..
WHAT ABOUT YOU, AKIMOTO?
DO YOU LIKE SWEETS!?
YEAH, THOSE!
OH! MADELEINES!
NO... THEY'RE SHAPED LIKE SHELLS..
Um...
MARMALADE?
JAM?
OH, BUT I DO LIKE THAT ONE KIND
NOT REALLY


You haven't had dinner yet, so just one
Huh? More, more!
Wham
Wham
Haw cute
PUFF
Huh
I STILL LIKE THEM TO THIS DAY~~
WHAT ABOUT YOU, FUTABA?

I'd smell the batter when I got home from school.
MY MOM USED TO BAKE THOSE FOR ME ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS A KID.

CHOCO-LATE!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE?
HUH?

OH, THEN I'LL BRING YOU SOMETHING GOOD THE NEXT TIME I DROP OFF SNACKS.
THAT'S QUITE A LOT
Huh!
If it's once a week
I COULD EAT CHOCOLATE FOR ALL THREE MEALS!

IF THAT HAPPENED TO ME, I'D USE THIS!
But being a complete chocolate maniac leaves you batting pimples
Geez, Karen Aren't you meddling?
Hmph!
She really does have a sweet tooth.
I learned a lot about sweets after I became Kagarou's editor.
MY ERRAND IS THIS WAY, SO I'LL LEAVE YOU HERE..
!
GRAB

LOST YOUR CHAPTER.

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HELLO, HOUSTON HERE.
FUTABA, AS THE FIRST HUMAN TO SEE THE EARTH FROM SATURN, HOW DOES IT LOOK?
WELL...
IT'S INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL
I WISH I COULD HAVE IT AS A PENDANT AND CARRY IT AROUND ALL THE TIME!
FUTABA!
episode.13

KEEP IT TOGETHER, FUTABA.
HOUSTON?
HUH... UM... WHAT DID YOU SAY?
AH!
I WAS SAYING
I LOST YOUR CHAPTER.
Please don't make me say it over and over... (sob)
WHAT!?
HITS HOME
MY CHAPTER
SORRY, BUT CAN YOU LEND ME YOUR PHONE?
Mine is in the briefcase with your chapter.
HE LOST..
I THINK IT WAS WHEN WE WERE AT THE RESTAURANT EARLIER.

THANKS!!
I'LL GO CHECK OUT THE PASTRY SHOP!
AAH
This is terrible!!
AH, FUTABA!
IT.. IT WASN'T AT THE RESTAU-RANT
Not at the pastry shop either...
puff
IF... IF WE CAN'T FIND IT..
I'LL HAVE TO REDRAW IT!!
That's...
IM-POSSI-BLE
THEN WHERE... WE DIDN'T STOP ANYWHERE ELSE AFTER LEAVING THE RESTAURANT..
...OH!

Let's go!
Faster!
Let's go!
I THINK YOU PUT IT DOWN WHEN YOU PUT THE READER SURVEYS IN YOUR BAG...
THAT'S IT!
.....
restaurant
Domy's
IT'S NOT HERE...
DID SOMEONE TAKE IT...?
WHO ...!?

Perfect for roasting sweet potatoes
It gets used for kindling!!
I'D RATHER
EEEEEK!
Panic
PULL IT TOGETHER, AKIMOTO!
WH... WHAT NOW? IF IT GETS LEAKED ONLINE...
Yaoi Auctions
Yaoi Comics
Yaoi Manga Pad
Futaba Towako New Chapter
Futaba Towako new chapter Check it out here
OH!
THE POLICE!!
MAYBE SOMEONE TURNED IT IN AT THE POLICE STATION!
THIS ISN'T THE SEASON FOR ROASTED SWEET POTATOES, SO WE SHOULD BE OK!
Blunt
If you see [illegible] call 110.
NO ONE TURNED IN ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
Faster!
Let's go!
Let's go!
I DIDN'T EVEN THINK OF THAT! YOU'RE RIGHT!

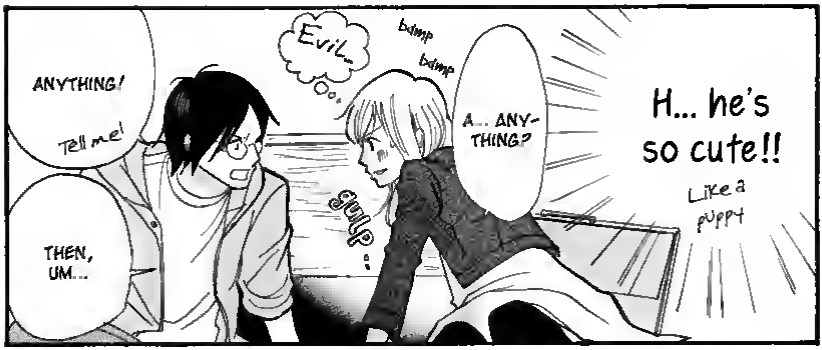
Are you OK?
OH...
HAAAAAA
OH... I HAVE TO CALL NACHAN.
WE CAN START TRACING AND INKING IT RIGHT AWAY...
HAA
THEN I'D LIKE TO REPORT A LOST ITEM.
HERE YOU GO.
Huh? So you're a manga artist. Make sure to sign the back!
I MADE A COPY OF THE DRAFT.
YANK!
NO GOOD, NO GOOD!
From... 32 pages Scratch——...
Ugh...
ONCE AGAIN, 32 PAGES FROM SCRATCH.

If I do, there's no way I'll be able to redo it!!
ACKNOWLEDGE MY OWN DESPAIR!!
Actually, not letting her eyes focus on it.
I CAN'T...
IS THERE A LITTLE GIRL HERE!?
Rattle
EXCUSE ME!
I'll leave it to you
AKIMOTO, I HAVE TO GET WORKING ON IT RIGHT AWAY!
IT...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH THAT MOM'S HURTING RIGHT NOW!
Let's go
IT'S GOT POLKA DOTS! AND HER HAIR'S IN A BOB CUT!
SHE'S 4 YEARS OLD, WEARING A DRESS!
.....
THE STARS MUST BE ALIGNED FOR LOSING THINGS TODAY
Calm down, ma'am

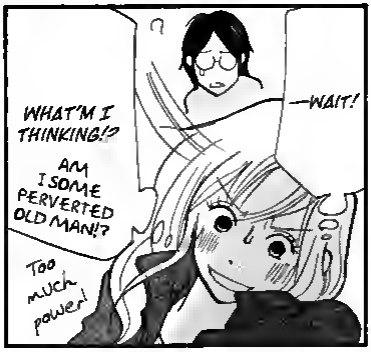
AKIMOTO...
IT HAS TO BE SOMEWHERE!
FUTABA, LET'S LOOK AROUND ONE MORE TIME!
...I'M SORRY I...
tattered...
WE COULDN'T FIND IT...
gulp
Three days...
.....
TWO... NO, THREE DAYS...
HOW MANY DAYS UNTIL THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE?

YES.
PLEASE SEND ME A COPY OF THE DRAFT RIGHT AWAY
GOT IT. CAN I BORROW AN ASSISTANT FROM ANOTHER ARTIST?
OK.
GOT IT.
AND DON'T FORGET SOME GOOD SNACKS.
AND— TODAY I'VE BEEN MENTALLY CURSING YOU OUT AS A "DISHEVELED DWEEB".
BWA HA!
GOT IT.

Whoa. he looks like he's gonna cry?
No... I can't...
UM...
CHEER UP!
Aha ha
C'MON!
GETTING DEPRESSED WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING!
I'LL DO IT!
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...
jolt


ANYTHING!
Tell me!
THEN, UM...
Evil...
bdump bdump
gulp
A... ANY-THING?
H... he's so cute!!
Like a puppy

HUH?


WHAT'M I THINKING!?
AM I SOME PERVERTED OLD MAN!?
Too much power!
—WAIT!

AKIMOTO! THAT GIRL! FROM THE POLICE STATION!
OH!
sniff sniff
A POLKA DOT DRESS AND BOBBED HAIR...
WHO IS SHE...?
THERE'S... SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT GIRL...

WAIT, FUTABA!
!
SHE'S GOT IT...
LEAN
sniff sniff
drag drag
THANK...

Goodness
squeeze
RICHAN, YOU WERE WAITING IN FRONT OF DOMY'S, RIGHT?
Because I was settling the bill
Domy
YEAH. AND THIS GUY LEFT THIS THERE.
I WANTED TO GIVE IT BACK TO HIM. AND THEN
I GOT LOST.
It's not my fault
SORRY, RICHAN
THANKS FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF IT
THIS...
tchtchtch

IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD TO ME.
Haaa aa~
oh no, I'm sorry
I really am sorry
YEAH
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE.
tap
MY RESIGNATION NOTICE WAS DANCING IN FRONT OF MY EYES.

BUT. NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND IT, I CAN TELL YOU
THAT I'M KIND OF GLAD YOU LOST IT...
Huh !?
Seriously!?
Why!?
OF COURSE, I DON'T WANT IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
HIGH-LIGHT
Squeeze
ANYWAY, I SHOULD GET GOING.
OH
C'MON, AFTER ALL THAT? LET'S BASK IN THE GLOW A LITTLE LONGER
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GET LONELY ALL BY MYSELF, RIGHT?
Slide
OK.
THAT'S RIGHT, LET'S HAVE THAT SPONGE CAKE.
Sit
Fast

He he
HE'S DEAD TIRED.
That's rare
MA'AM...
Ha ha
SURE, IT'S FINE
IT DOESN'T MATTER ANY-MORE
A relief, even
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO EAT IT?
HERE.
Let's celebrate with cake
I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S TIME FOR LAST CALL..
OH...
I'M GOOD
DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.
IT...

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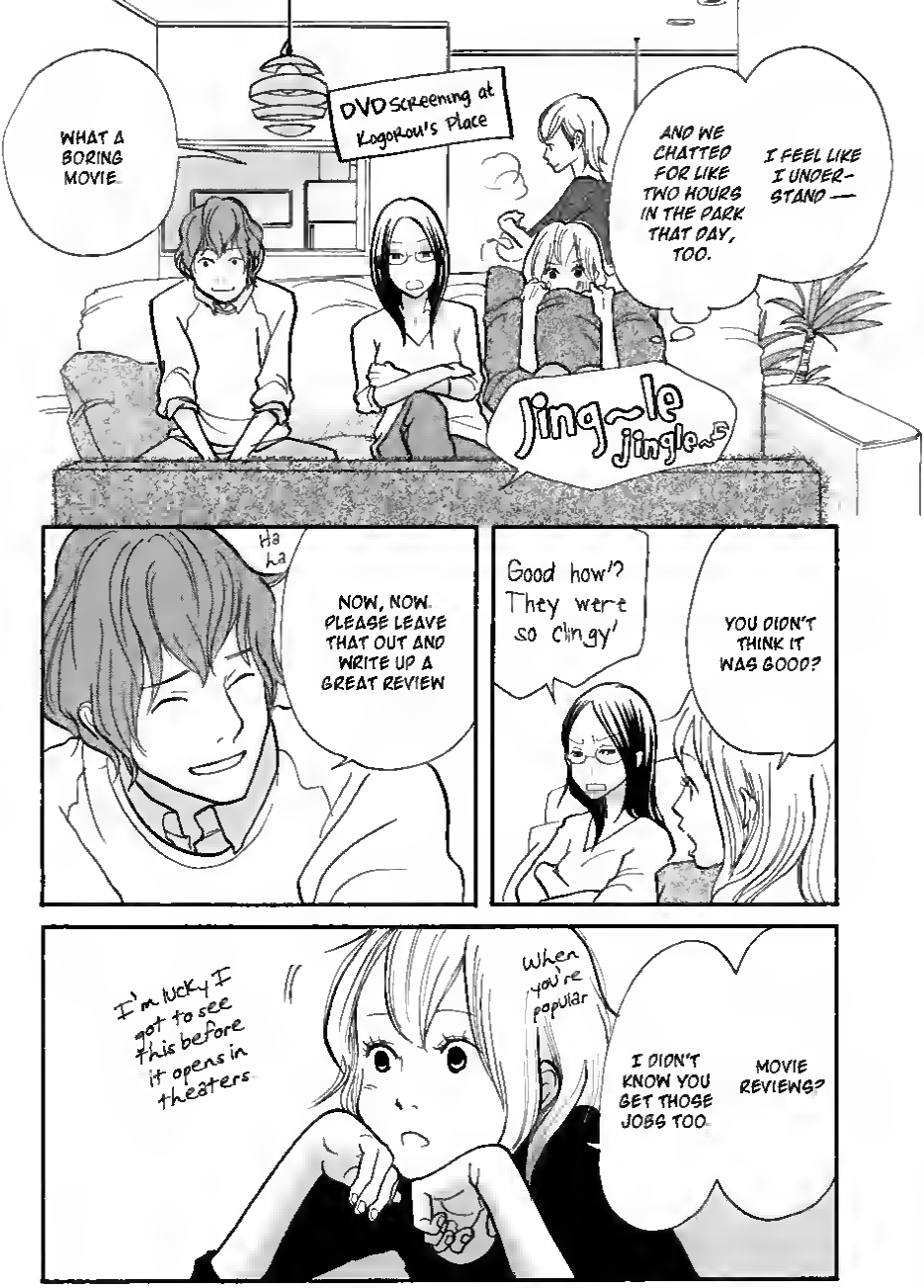
FWOOM...
I love you…
They say that men and women who overcome danger together are bound to each other.
愛してるわ
PONY
balmp
balmp
balmp
balmp

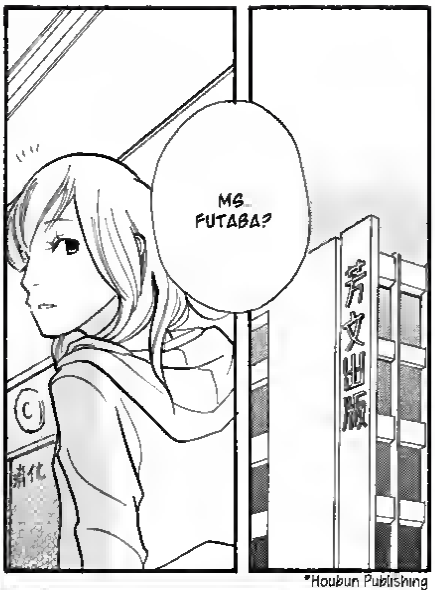

DVD screening at Kogorou's place
WHAT A BORING MOVIE
I FEEL LIKE I UNDER-STAND —
AND WE CHATTED FOR LIKE TWO HOURS IN THE DARK THAT DAY, TOO.
Jing~le jingle~s
Ha ha
NOW, NOW. PLEASE LEAVE THAT OUT AND WRITE UP A GREAT REVIEW
YOU DIDN'T THINK IT WAS GOOD?
Good how'? They were so clingy'
I'm lucky I got to see this before it opens in theaters
When you're popular
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GET THOSE JOBS TOO
MOVIE REVIEWS?

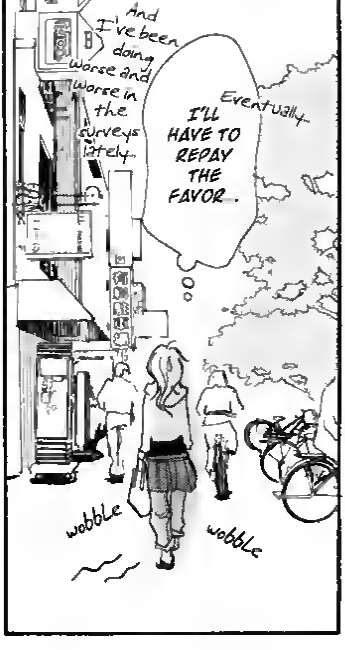
OH, I'M SORRY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE MAYBE HER ASSISTANT..
...YES.
Well, I did come to assist her today.
Meaning there's no chance I'll get to do movies?
.....
YOU'RE FUTABA TOWAKO?
Huh?
WELL, YOU'LL EVENTUALLY START TO GET COMMISSIONS FOR VARIOUS THINGS TOO, FUTABACCHI.
I'M OONO, FROM MONTHLY LUSSY.
Monthly Lussy Oono
I READ TAROU AND HANAKO'S STORY
I'D REALLY LOVE TO SEE IT CONTINUED
But that series..
was cancelled..
IF YOU'D LIKE, FEEL FREE TO STOP BY MY PUBLISHER..
HEY NOW, OONO!

I can't believe you brought me this as a snack!
Sweet Bean Waffle
YOU CAN'T SWEET-TALK ANOTHER ARTIST RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
Like it's nothing
You know
OH
AND ALSO!
HUH?
Futabacchi, did you bring something
Geez!
I'VE TOLD YOU I DON'T LIKE SWEET BEAN STUFF!
WHAT?
That was a subject change
SO WAIT, YOU DON'T LIKE THOSE FILLED SPONGE CAKES EITHER?

Sponge cake...
THEN WHO WAS HE BUYING THOSE SNACKS FOR?
HUH?
Tea's done
And don't even ask me about those fish-shaped ones with bean jam
OF COURSE I DON'T! THEY'RE FULL OF SWEET BEAN PASTE
He doesn't go out with me like that
HUH? ISN'T HE GIVING YOU SPECIAL TREATMENT?
No
HE ISN'T!
You're the one who makes him bring you snacks, right!?
OH, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
I'M MEETING WITH AKIMOTO AT TWO TO GO TAKE SOME RESEARCH PHOTOS
Sorry I can't stay for tea, Tomo
COOKIE

ACTUALLY...
I WAS KIND OF THINKING THE SAME THING MYSELF...
THAT'S HE'S OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT ME...
OR OVERLY WORRIED FOR ME...
PLEASE TURN FUTABA OVER TO ME!!
BUT THAT'S PROBABLY...
...BECAUSE HE FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR ME AFTER SAYING THAT?
DUN





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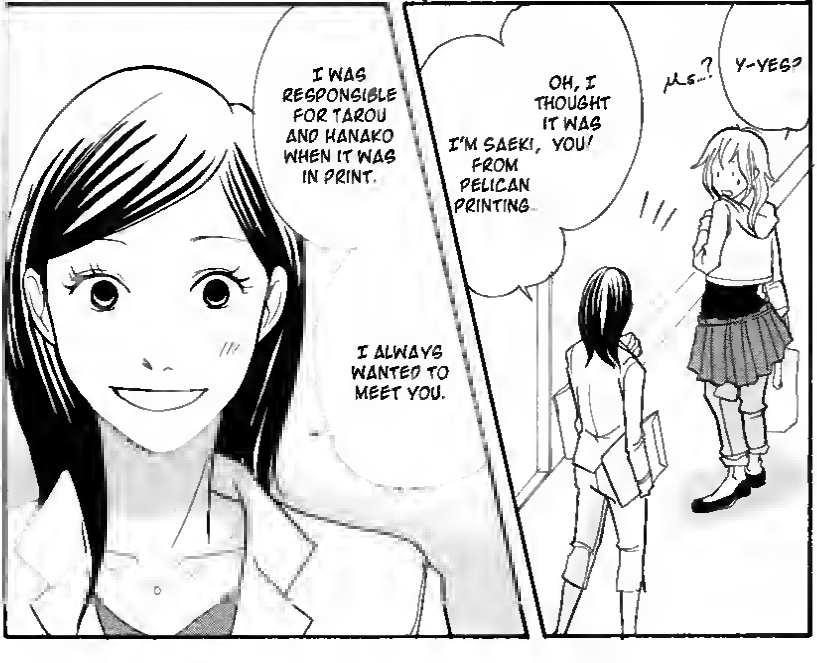
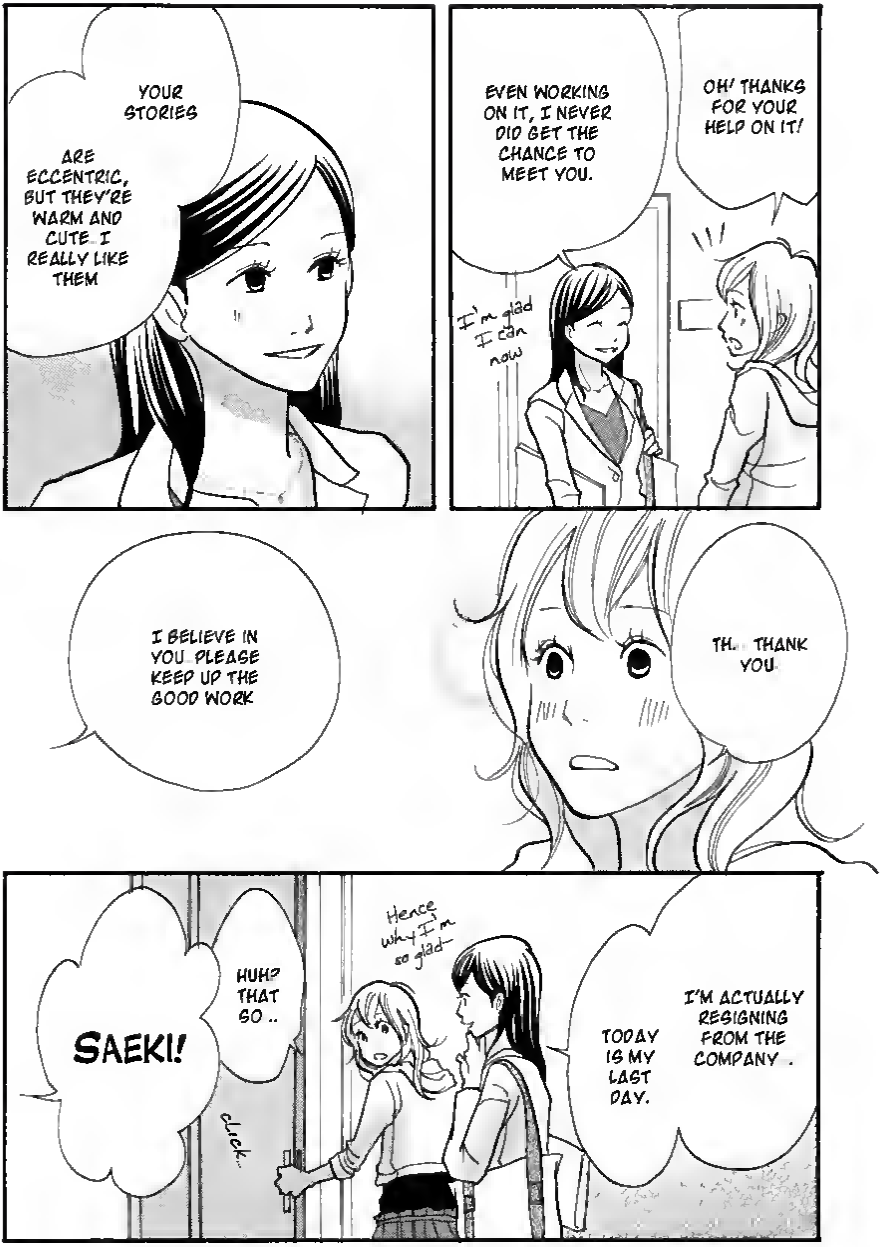
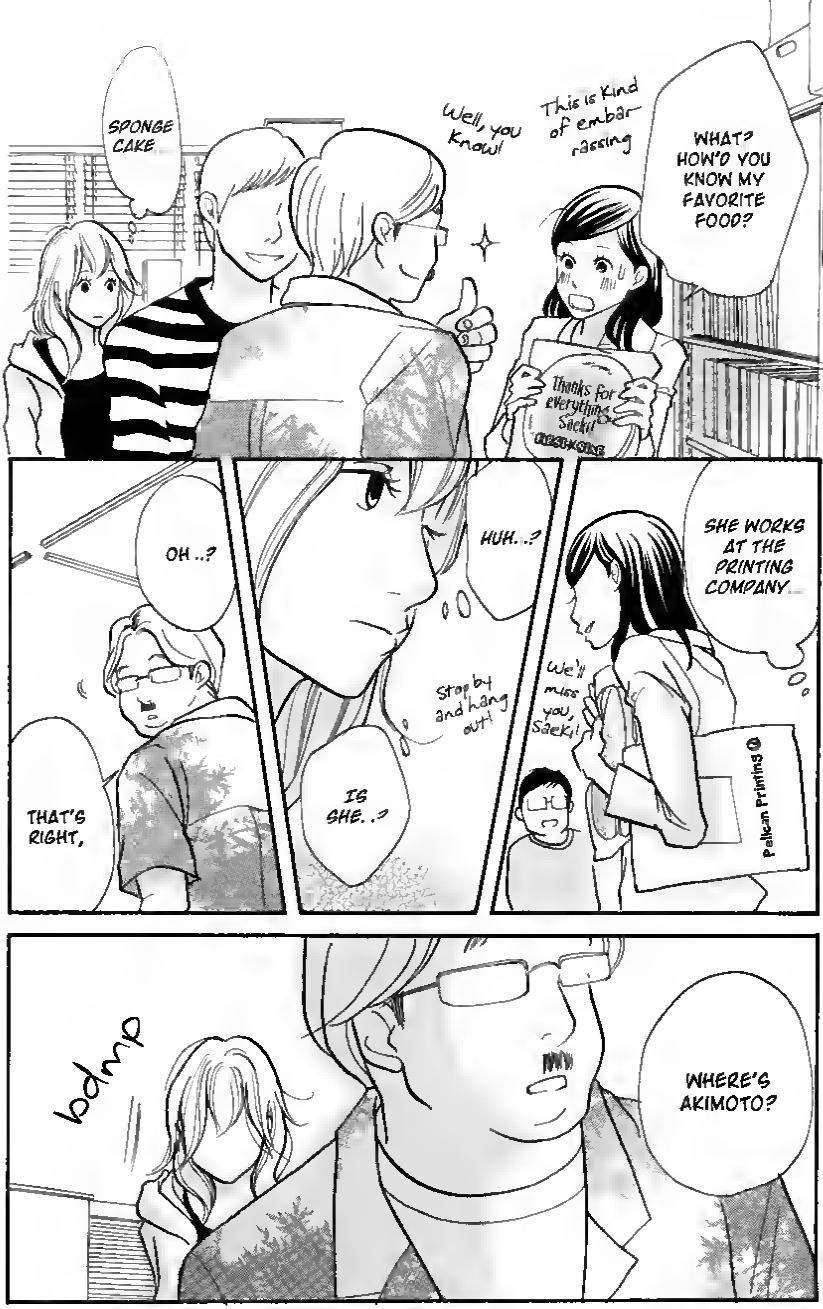
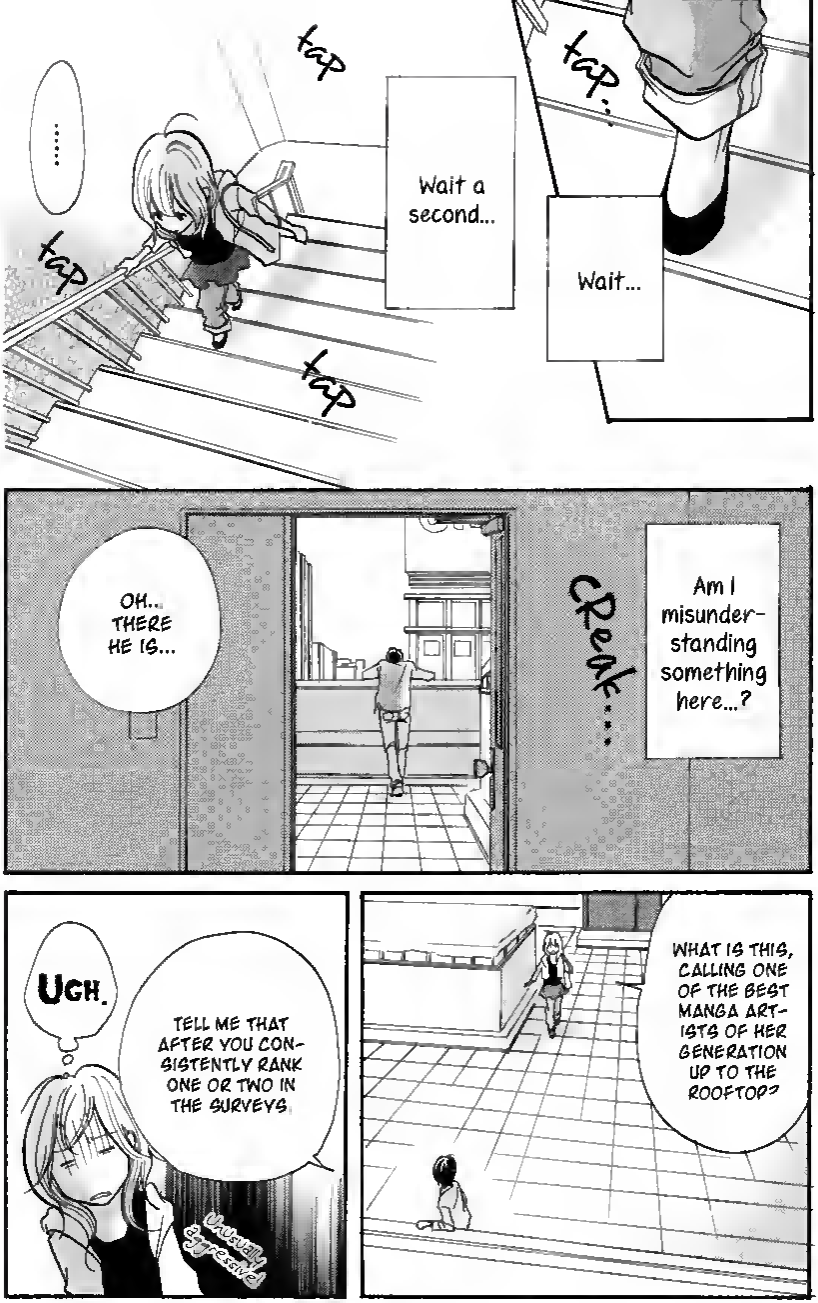

I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR TAROU AND HANAKO WHEN IT WAS IN PRINT.
I ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU.
I'M SAEKI, FROM PELICAN PRINTING.
OH, I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU!
Ms..?
Y-YES?

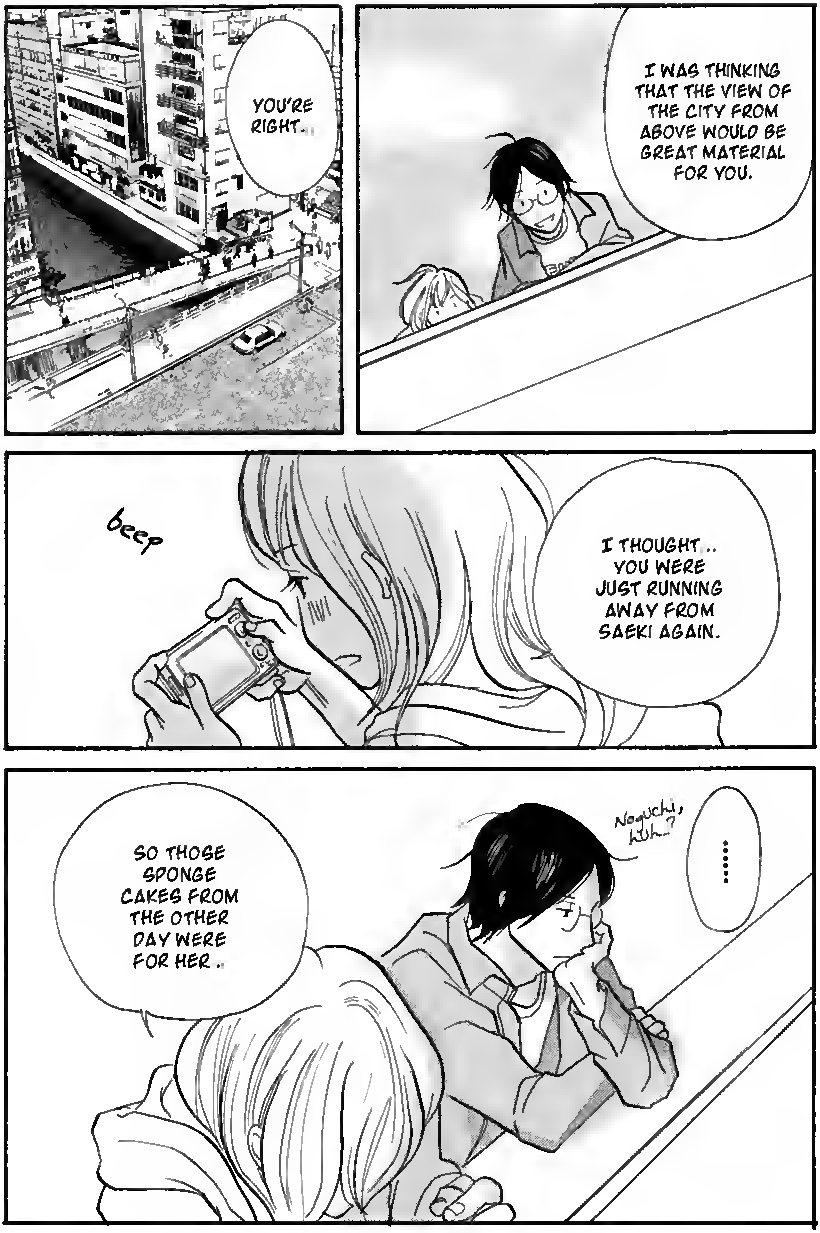

YOUR STORIES ARE ECCENTRIC, BUT THEY'RE WARM AND CUTE. I REALLY LIKE THEM
EVEN WORKING ON IT, I NEVER DID GET THE CHANCE TO MEET YOU.
I'm glad I can now
OH! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP ON IT!
I BELIEVE IN YOU. PLEASE KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK
TH... THANK YOU.
SAEKI!
HUH? THAT SO ..
click..
Hence why I'm so glad~
TODAY IS MY LAST DAY.
I'M ACTUALLY RESIGNING FROM THE COMPANY .

HUH...
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING!
YOU SAID THE NEXT ONE AT THE DOOR WOULD BE SAEKI!
TCH.
WHAT? IT'S FUTABA!
A GIANT SIGNED SPONGE CAKE!
Thanks for everything, Saeki!
FIRST STAR
SAEKI. THIS IS FROM THE EDITING DEPARTMENT!
FUTABA, MOVE OVER A BIT.
SURE! SURE
TA—DAA


SPONGE CAKE
Well, you know!
This is kind of embarrassing
WHAT? HOW'D YOU KNOW MY FAVORITE FOOD?
Thanks for everything Saeki!
OH ..?
THAT'S RIGHT,
HUH..?
Stop by and hang out!
IS SHE..?
We'll miss you, Saeki!
SHE WORKS AT THE PRINTING COMPANY...
Pelican Printing
bamp
WHERE'S AKIMOTO?

AH... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
Geez, Nagichi-
No need.
OH, IT'S OK..
HUH? HE WAS JUST HERE..
bdmp
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
bdmp
bdmp
HUH? THEN IT'S TRUE?
BDMP
YOU REALLY BROKE UP WITH AKIMOTO?


tap
tap
tap
tap...
.....
Wait a second...
Wait...
OH... THERE HE IS...
creak...
Am I misunderstanding something here...?
UGH.
TELL ME THAT AFTER YOU CONSISTENTLY RANK ONE OR TWO IN THE SURVEYS.
Unusually Expressive!
WHAT IS THIS, CALLING ONE OF THE BEST MANGA ARTISTS OF HER GENERATION UP TO THE ROOFTOP?


YOU'RE RIGHT..
I WAS THINKING THAT THE VIEW OF THE CITY FROM ABOVE WOULD BE GREAT MATERIAL FOR YOU.
beep
I THOUGHT .. YOU WERE JUST RUNNING AWAY FROM SAEKI AGAIN.
SO THOSE SPONGE CAKES FROM THE OTHER DAY WERE FOR HER ..
Noguchi, kun?
.....

SPONGE CAKE... IS KIND OF A SPECIAL THING
FOR HER.
HEY!
SAEKI!
HERE, TAKE THIS
I HOPE IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.
Sponge Cake
I SAID I WAS SORRY, DIDN'T I?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY ANGRY AT ME?

...I FORGIVE YOU.
Sponge
was really that happy over the cake...
AND I...
...IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY THOUGHT THE CAKE WOULD FIX THINGS, THOUGH
DID YOU LOVE HER, AKIMOTO?
beep
...THEN...

QUIT IT.
DON'T MAKE ME SAY STUFF LIKE THAT

The pictures I took that day were all blurry,
beep
Achoo!
so I wound up retaking them from the mall roof the next day.

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...NOT GROWING, HUH...
SSSSt
MAYBE I PLANTED THEM TOO EARLY IN THE SEASON...

episode.15

...AFTER HE SAID THAT, I HAVE TO MAKE IT BLOOM...
Absolutely
Sincere
SEND ME A PICTURE ONCE THEY BLOOM!
...THANKS
MORNING GLORY SEEDS FROM MY HOUSE.
AKIMOTO, HERE...
Artist
I'M READY AND WAITING TO GROW YOU.
I ALREADY BOUGHT YOU FERTILIZER AND SUPPORTS.
HEY!
New
...
WE CAN'T GET STARTED IF YOU DON'T SPROUT.

FIRST STAR Editing Dept
HUH...
AND... CUT OPEN THE SEED COAT..
AKIMOTO!
How to Grow Morning Glory Flowers
I NEEDED TO SOAK THE SEEDS OVERNIGHT
And I used to be in the gardening club, too
CHIEF.
HOW'S BONBON DOING THIS MONTH?

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A MEETING LATER, AND I HAVE SOME MATERIAL TO GIVE HIM.
YEAH? THANKS..
.....
HE'S FINE
TUP
flip flip
HE WENT WAY OFF TRACK LAST MONTH.
flip...
味迷-AJIDO
Send Tanizaki Senken your letters of encouragement
AND THE RED TEAM!
chomp
GOOD!
gobble
MMM!
IT'S HARD TO PICK THE WINNER.
YOU CAME?
bustle bustle
DUN

IF THE ARTISTS DON'T TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY, IT'S OVER
Abe 2
Akamatsu's coworker
HE DID BETTER WHEN ABE WAS HIS EDITOR.
YOU KNOW...
And he hasn't finished the storyboard yet.
HE'S ACTUALLY HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE
TANIZAKI..
beep
I recently became Tanizaki Bonbon's editor.
STILL, TO SAY HE'S NOT TAKING ME SERIOUSLY...

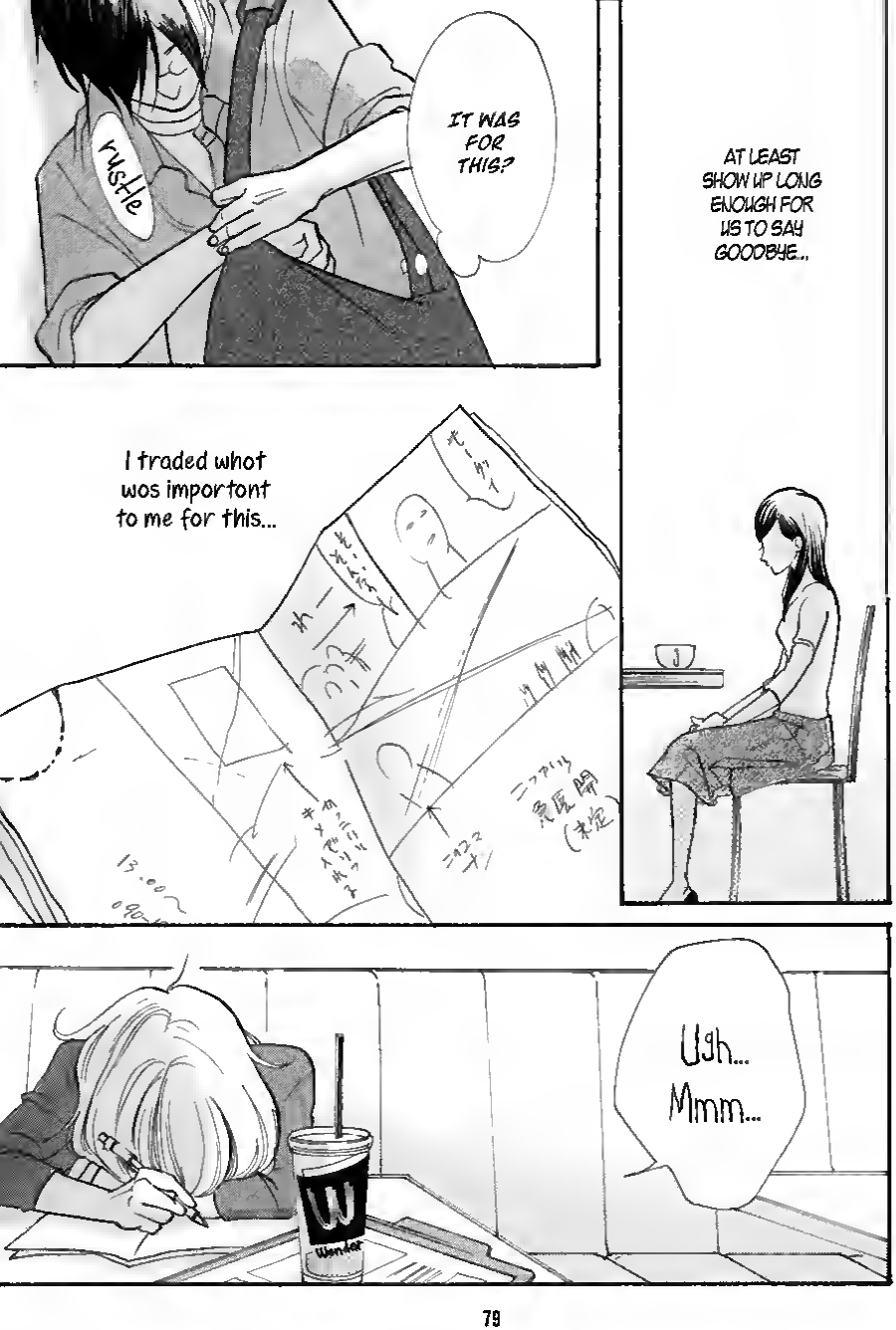
for a lang time.
WE WON KNOW WHO WINS UNTIL WE TRY THE FOOD!
He's been a popular artist at "First Star"
rattle rattle
DA — DUN!
WH
dump
ISN'T THAT JUST REGULAR CHICKEN AND RICE!?
IT'S NOT COMPLETE..
...BONBON, THIS STORY-BOARD.
——...
And right naw he's in a rating's slump.
Haaaaah~
I'VE GOT THE REFERENCE BOOK YOU REQUESTED AND I TOOK THE PHOTOS.
OH!
.....
.....

UGH... HERE WE GO...
Don't you get it!?
warm
YOU KNOW I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE!
.....
I CAN'T KEEP GOING LIKE THIS.
...IT'S FINE.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. JUST CANCEL THE SERIES.
YOU'RE THE ONE NOT HELPING ME OUT, AKIMOCCHI.
THE PRESSURE!
WHAT'S THE POINT IN CONTINUING A MANGA I DON'T WANT TO DRAW?
WITH ME LIKE THIS
DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK THAT YOU HANDING ME REFERENCE MATERIAL GETS THE MANGA CREATED?
AND WHY DID YOU SWITCH EDITORS ON ME MID-SERIES IN THE FIRST PLACE?
YOU GUYS ARE THE ONES FORCING ME TO DRAG THE STORY OUT CHAPTER AFTER CHAPTER.
I'M SO STRESSED.
ABE ALWAYS BACKED ME UP.
THEN YOU DRAW IT, AKIMOCCHI!
AH~~ GEEZ!
THE READERS ARE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
DON'T THINK ABOUT CANCEL-LING IT!

If I could draw it, I would.
I can't draw.
Isn't that why I sacrificed everything to succeed in this?
HOUBUN PUBLISHING!?

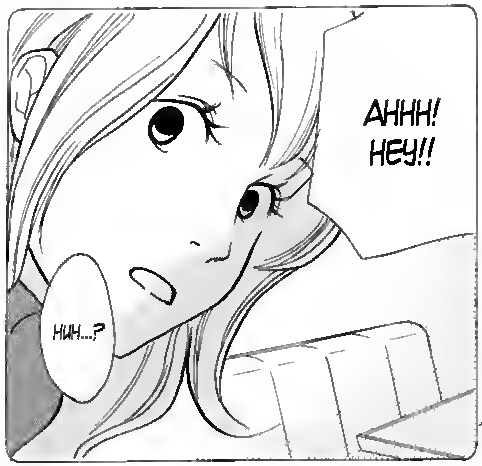
HUH! WE MIGHT SEE EACH OTHER AT WORK, RIGHT?
SHOULD WE KEEP IT A SECRET?
I JUST TOOK OVER HOUBUN PUBLISHING'S ACCOUNT!
THEY OFFERED YOU A JOB? NO WAY!
?
AKIMOTO, CAN WE MEET UP THIS WEEKEND?
Huh?
Huh?
That would be even more embarrassing!
Bwa ha ha ha ha
She gradually stopped asking if we could meet up.
I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT...
OH...
UH~~~ THERE'S OKADA...
SUN GLASS

STUDY ABROAD !?
YEAH. I WANT TO STUDY TRANSLATION AND DO IT PROFESSIONALLY.
HEY... DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME FOR US TO CHAT?
Eventually
I'M FINISHING UP A PROOF NOW
WE COULDN'T EVEN TALK
EVEN AT THE END.
"CAN WE HAVE A REAL TALK? I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU SATURDAY."


rustle
IT WAS FOR THIS?
AT LEAST SHOW UP LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO SAY GOODBYE...
I traded what was important to me for this...
Ugh... Mmm...
Wonder

SINCE..
reek
I CAN'T DO IT!
This story baard!
How'm I supposed to drow mongo when I'm in a slump like this!?
And I thought that Akimoto was losing interest in her!
I... LOVED HER WITH ALL MY HEART. ♡
Never said that
AHHH! HEY!!
Not a solution.
THIS WON'T WORK... BETTER GO SOMEWHERE ELSE..
clack
Jingle Jingle
Customer order No 8
Aha ha

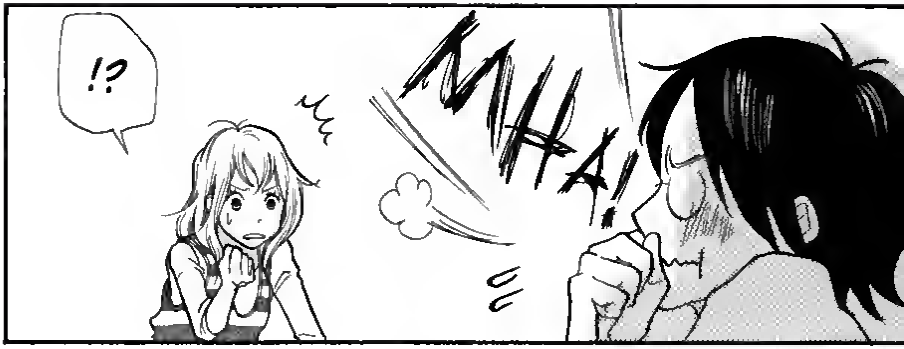
*Houbun Publishing
HAA..
rustle
fidget fidget
what should I do..
THERE'S FUTABA, TOO.. SHE'S NOT POPULAR AT ALL..
haa
Checking the storyboard
HUH..?
THIS SCENE'S AMAZING
WHERE HE FACES OFF WITH HIS RIVAL
OH! THAT'S ACTUALLY BASED ON REAL LIFE
You even put tons of details in the sketch

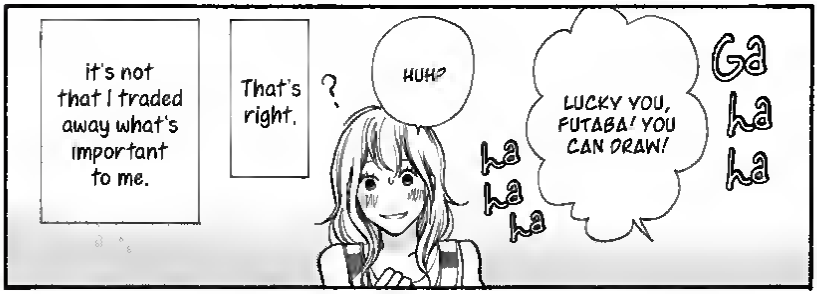

AHHH! HEY!!
HUH...?

YEAH! THE OTHER DAY I WAS AT WONDER BURGER.
REAL LIFE?

THIS DOG AS HUGE AS CERBERUS SUDDENLY CAME UP TO ME!!
Wonder Burger
RUN

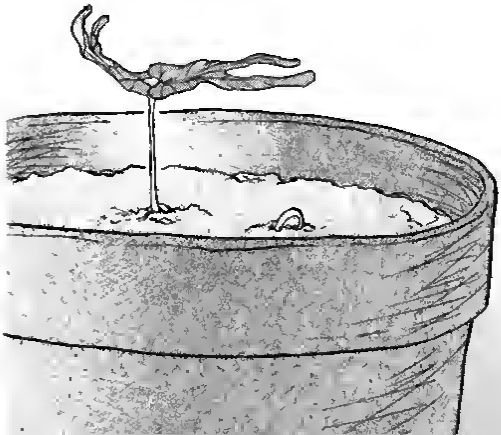
THERE WAS A DOG IN A FAST FOOD PLACE!?
That's not safe!
YEAH, SURPRISING, RIGHT?
Here, now!
And she's a little old lady
Woof Woof
The owner came and got her right away, though...
IT ONLY LASTED AN INSTANT,
BUT THE TENSION WAS REAL
Am I gonna be eaten!?
Like, is she gonna eat me!?
MY FOCUS HIT MAX,
AND JUMPED OUTTA MY PORES!!
I ACTUALLY HAD SOMETHING OF A SHOCK RECENTLY,
SO I WAS IN A BIT OF A SLUMP...
To be honest-
BUT!
ONCE YOU'RE HIT WITH THAT SCENE, YOU CAN'T JUST EXCUSE YOURSELF BY CALLING IT A SLUMP!!
I WAS LIKE, "GEEZ! I'VE GOTTA DRAW!!"





I just chose what's important to me.

As long as I'm here, even I can create manga.



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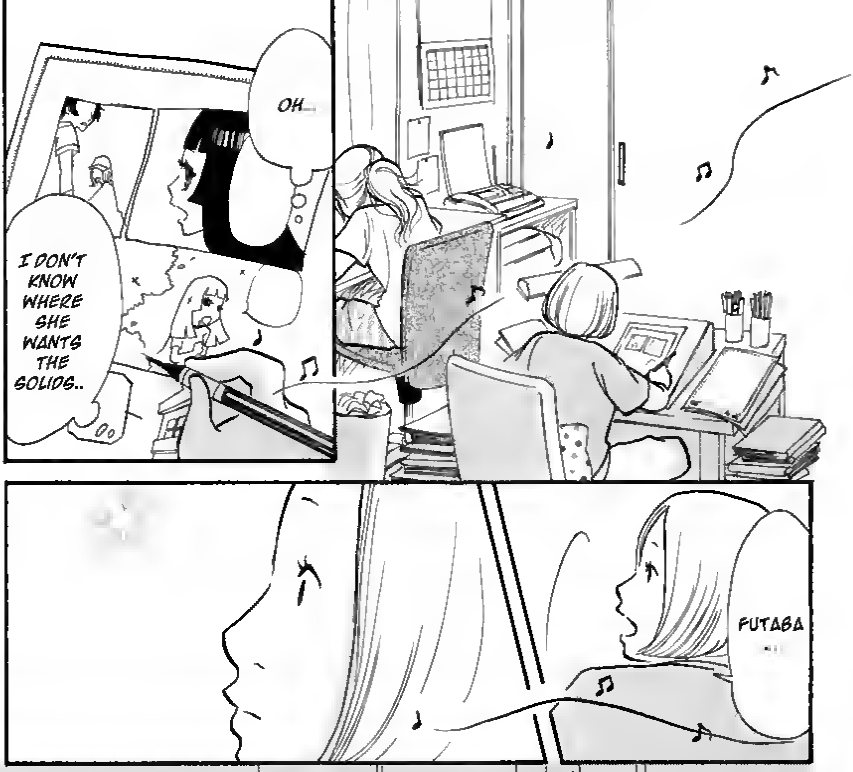

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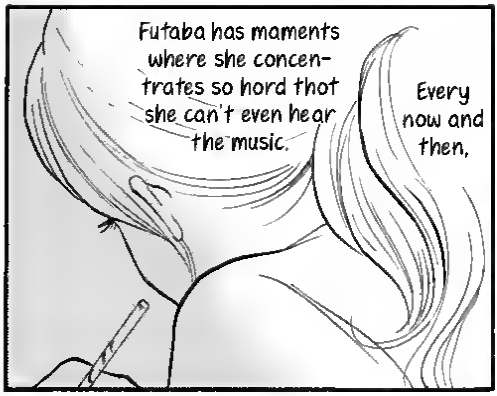
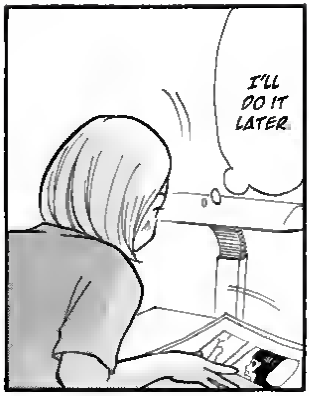


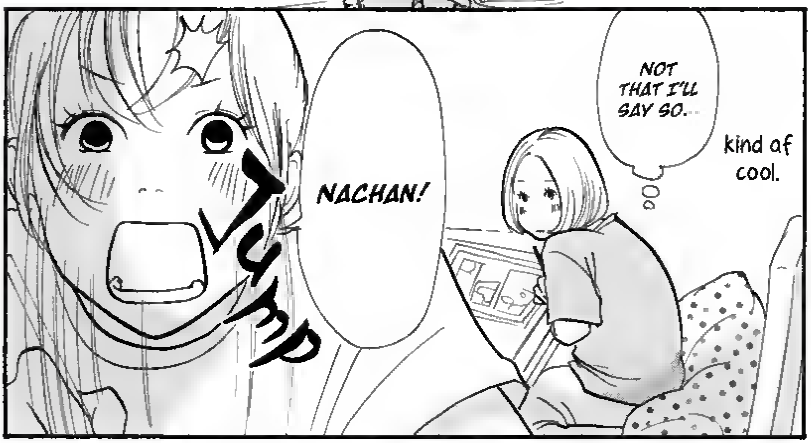


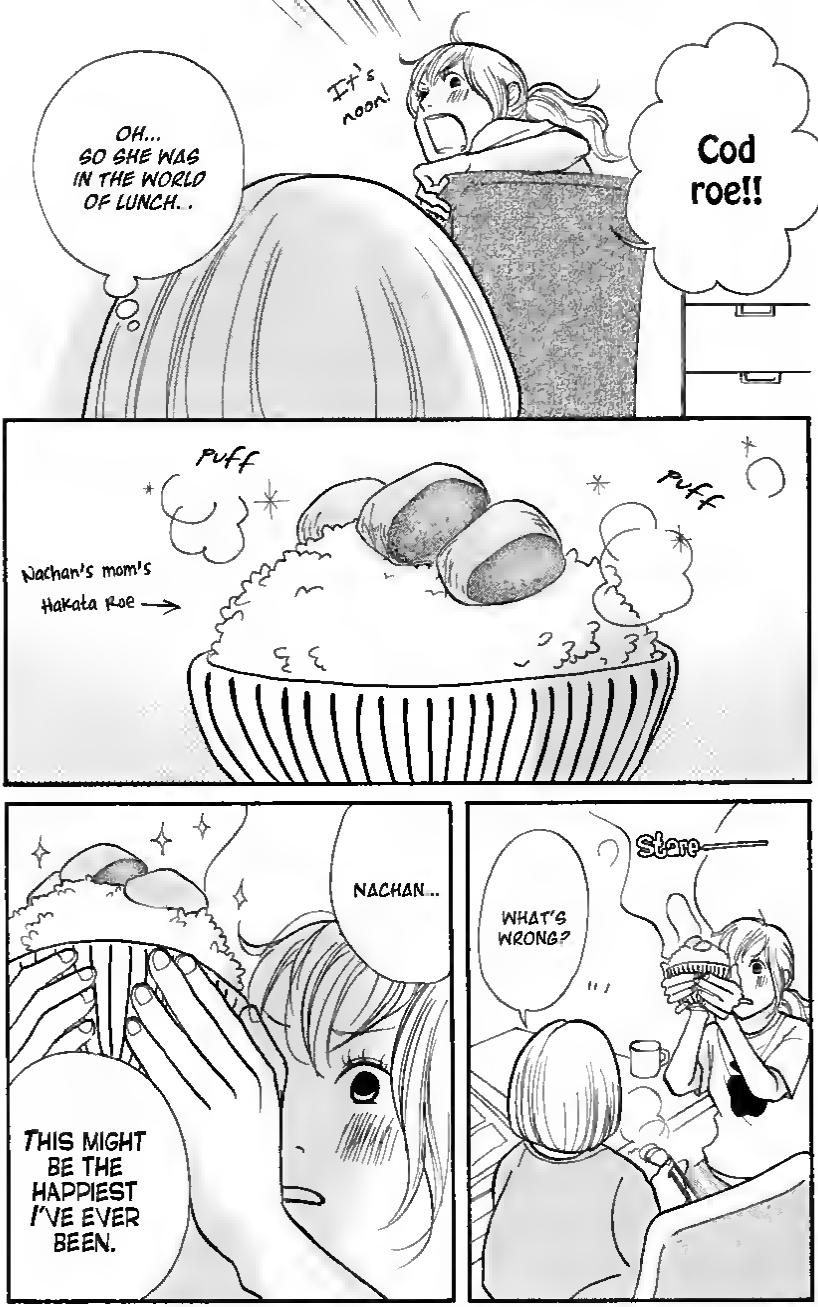
When that happens,

she's a little hard to approach,

like she's in another world.

And I think she looks




It's noon!
Cod roe!!
OH... SO SHE WAS IN THE WORLD OF LUNCH..
puff
puff
Nachan's mom's Hakata Roe
NACHAN..
THIS MIGHT BE THE HAPPIEST I'VE EVER BEEN.
Stare
WHAT'S WRONG?

Wave
BECAUSE, BECAUSE—
Wave
HUH?
AND EATING STEAMING HOT ROE FOR LUNCH.
Well thanks
HAVING A BLAST WITH MY AMAZING FRIEND HELPING ME OUT,
Even if it's hard
I'M DRAWING MANGA FOR A LIVING,
Ugh
AND IF WE FINISH, YOU CAN GO DELIVER IT TO AKIMOTO.
If this isn't happiness, what is?
PLUS THE CHAPTER WILL BE DONE TONIGHT. (THAT'S THE PLAN.)

Ah!
fwip
munch
C... C'MON
Uggh
Ehe he
AND HE'S SINGLE NOW, TOO.
THE SETTING SUN IS BEAUTIFUL
AND...
Rahh
Hold it right there!
Rahh
Hand over one of yours, Furaba!
THAT'S MY ROE!
These are mine!
Donny's
OK, I'VE GOT IT.

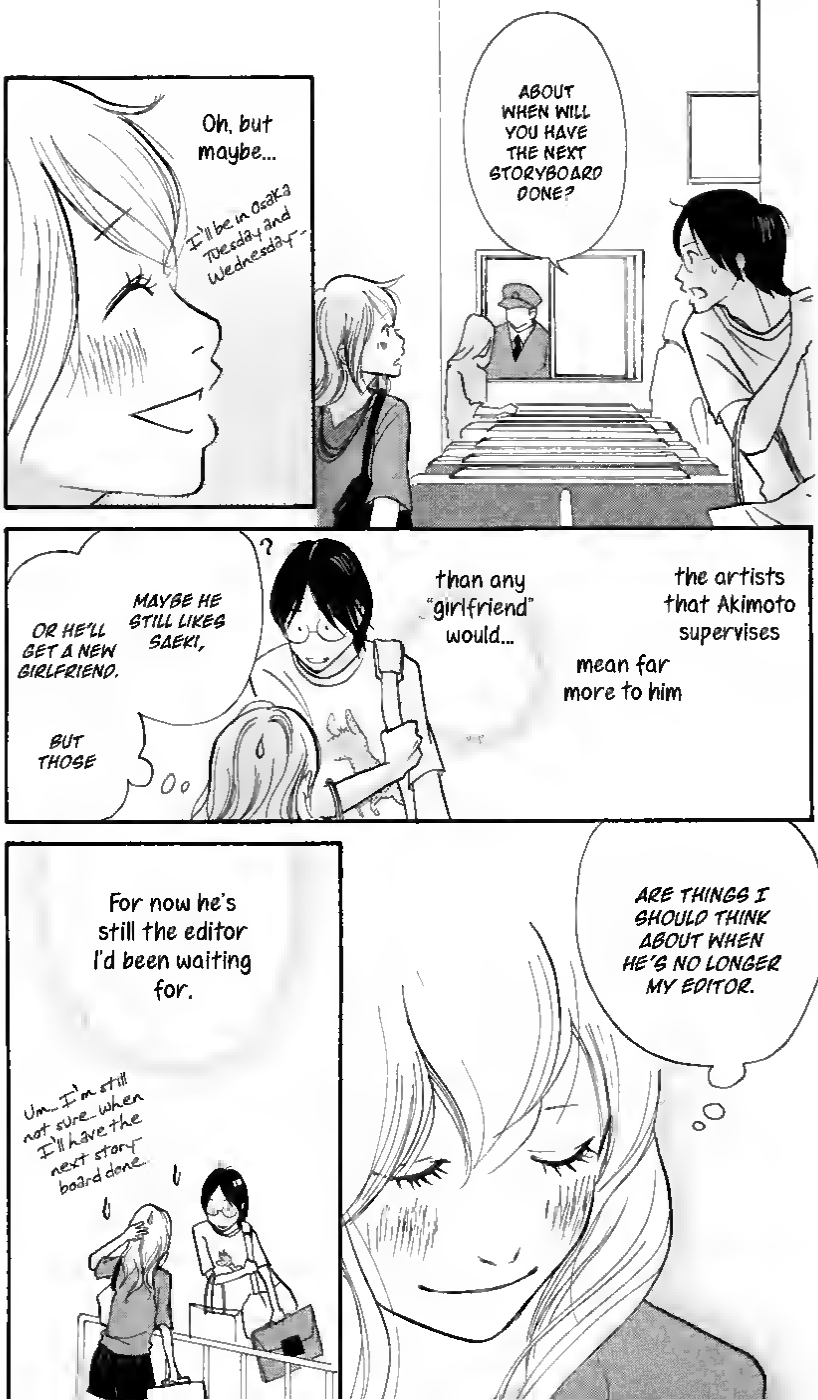
¥590
In brief
SO ABOUT OUR NEXT MEETING...
AKIMOTO'S MY EDITOR.
THE NEXT CHAPTER, UM.. WILL BE FOR ISSUE 8, SO IT'LL BE THE ANNIVERSARY EDITION..
THAT'S WHY WE'RE BOTH HERE RIGHT NOW.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE PLANNING A READER'S CORNER.
AND THAT...
bump
FUTABA.

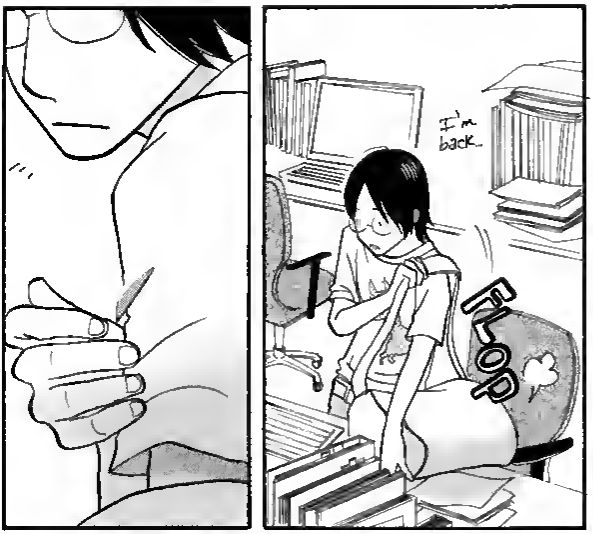
Y— YES!?
YOU HAVE SOMETHING ON YOUR HEAD.
MENU
HUH?
OTHER SIDE.
NOPE
pat
pat
WHERE IS IT?
GET.
GET IT OFF ME, PLEASE.
IT'S HERE.
IT'S SCREEN TONE.

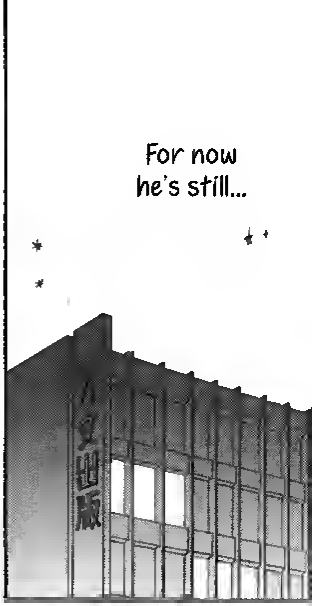
I try not to think about it much, but...
YEAH... PROBABLY 62
This one
CAN YOU TELL WHICH NUMBER IT IS?
I wonder how it'd feel to be Akimoto's girlfriend...
It's so big! I had no idea...
THANKS.
Yeah right...
Donny's
bow

HUH?
YOUR BAG ALWAYS LOOKS SO HEAVY.
HUH? I'M FINE!
tap
I'LL CARRY HALF UNTIL WE GET TO THE STATION.
NO, I'LL HELP.
YOU'LL LOSE IT AGAIN.
Ugh...
Don't say terrible things like that.
BOOK
If I were his "girlfriend",
we wouldn't be connected by a paper bag like this...

I could be closer to him,
and we wouldn't just be meeting at restaurants.
SEEYA.
Thanks.
I COULD CALL OUT TO HIM... OR CHASE AFTER HIM...
OR SAY GOODBYE AGAIN...
OR SET OUR NEXT MEETING...
OH, FUTABA!
TAP
TAP
TAP


Oh, but maybe...
I'll be in Osaka Tuesday and Wednesday.
ABOUT WHEN WILL YOU HAVE THE NEXT STORYBOARD DONE?
?
MAYBE HE STILL LIKES SAEKI,
OR HE'LL GET A NEW GIRLFRIEND.
BUT THOSE
than any "girlfriend" would...
the artists that Akimoto supervises
mean far more to him
For now he's still the editor I'd been waiting for.
Um... I'm still not sure when I'll have the next story board done.
ARE THINGS I SHOULD THINK ABOUT WHEN HE'S NO LONGER MY EDITOR.


I'm back.
FLOP


For now he's still...

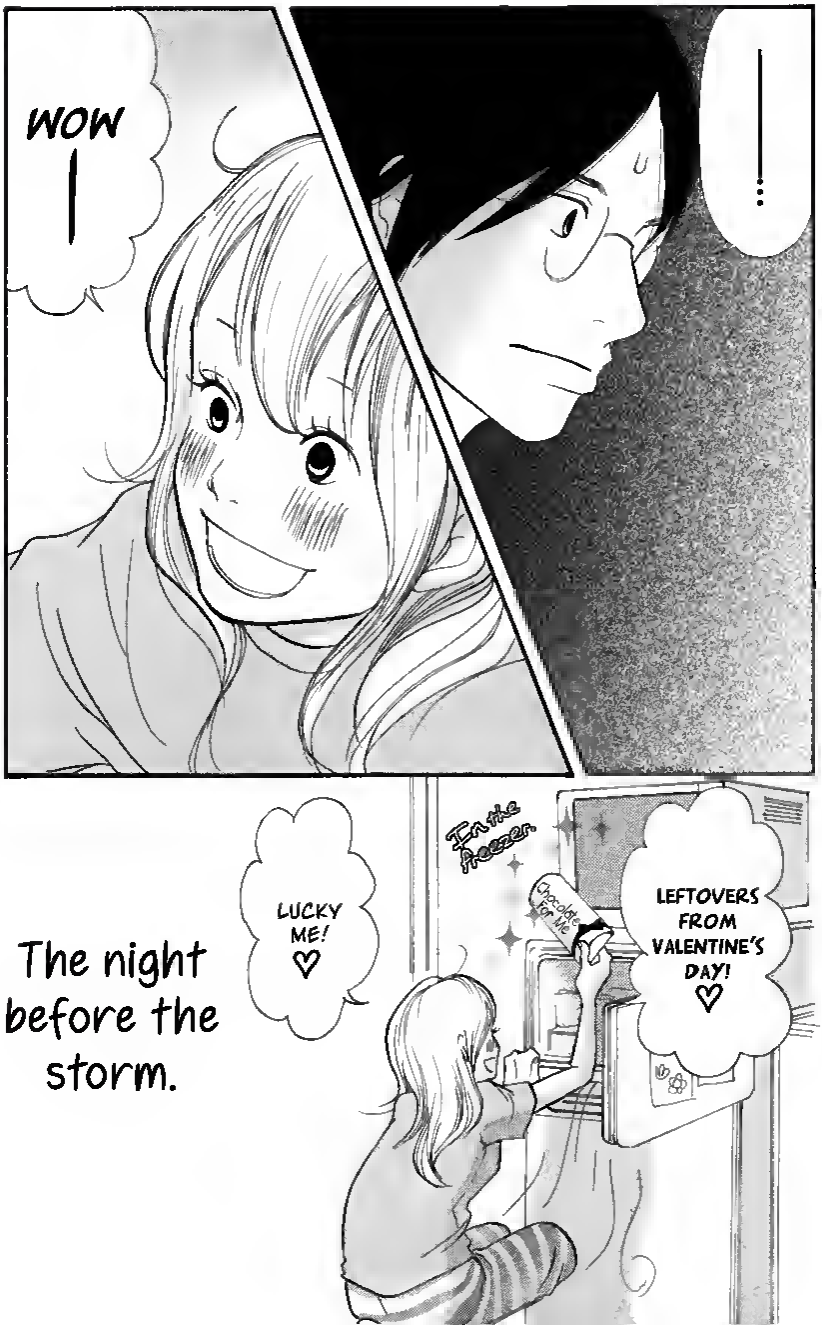
AKIMOTO!
cmere, cmere

Number 62
WHEN DID IT GET THERE.
Hah

THE ARTIST THAT DEBUTED THIS MONTH DID WELL
FIRST PLANET
This...
Yes!
bustle
stop
YEAH.
Thanks
THIS IS GOOD.
WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO ABOUT IT?
HUH?
About what?
!
REALLY!?
The characters are good. It'd be a waste to burn them on a oneshot.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT TURNING IT INTO A SERIES?
Awesome.
IF WE DO THAT...
THIS ONE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING GOING FOR IT.
Maybe our first rookie hit in a long time.
OF COURSE I'LL DO IT!!

FUTABA'S DONE
Creak
.....
HUH...?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT
HER POPULARITY ISN'T GOING UP AT ALL
NOGUCHI DROPPED HER ONCE ALREADY OF COURSE WE SHOULD BE MORE STRICT WITH HER
AND YOU'RE OVERLOADED AS IS.
flip

KEEPING POPULAR ARTISTS AROUND,
BUILDING STRUGGLING ARTISTS BACK UP,
GUIDING PROMISING NEW ARTISTS,
AND PUTTING AN END TO HOPELESS ARTISTS.
AN EDITOR HAS ALL THOSE JOBS.
YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR PRIORITIES.



The night before the storm.

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
BY NEMU YOUKO
CHAPTER 17
Scans & translations
Kalendel
Raw preps: ayase
Editing: Ximena
QC: Ianu
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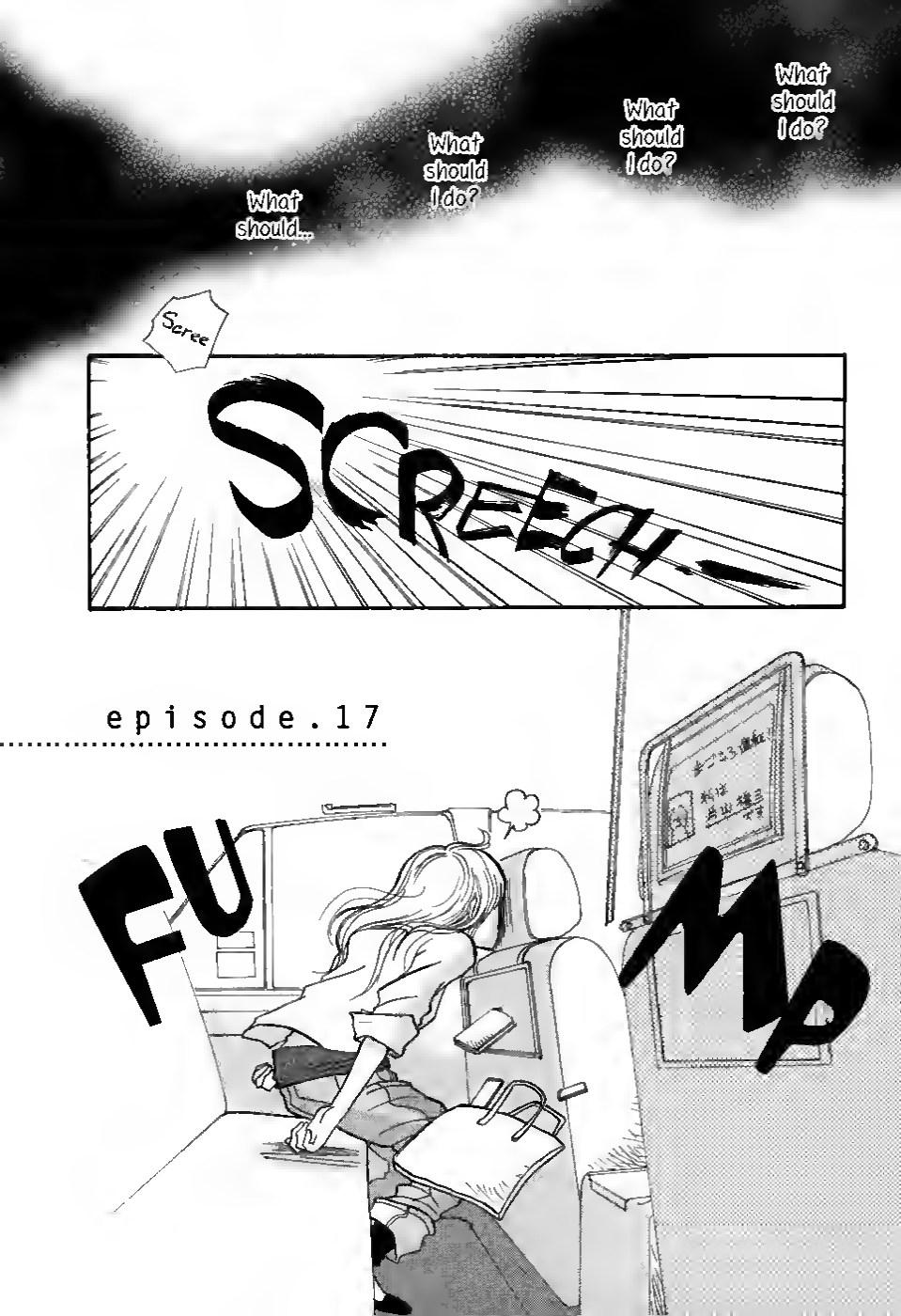

What should...
What should I do?
What should I do?
What should I do?
Seree
SCREECH—
episode.17
FUMO

Ouww.
WHOA, THE INSIDE OF MY MOUTH IS CUT..
throb
throb
Clack..
OWW
~~~
The ride's on the house if you don't report me.
Sorry, a bicycle came flying out of nowhere..
throb
throb
DAMMIT, THAT STUPID DRIVER!
throb
throb
throb
throb
Eat
Do Not Eat
Do Not Eat
ANYWAY, THIS SHOULD COOL IT DOWN
throb
throb
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO WALK
MAYBE THIS IS PUNISH-MENT FOR SPLURGING ON A TAXI...
throb
throb
throb
~~~

This small cake box cold pack

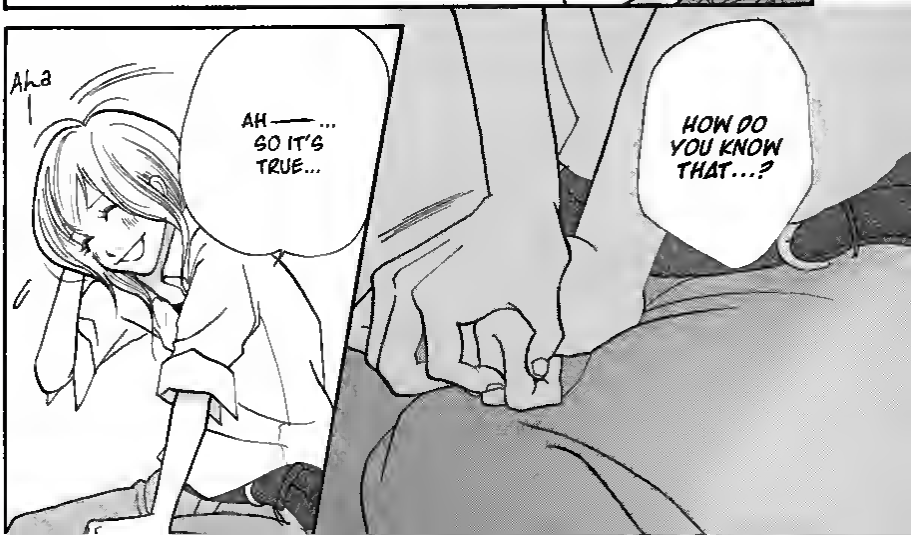
ond exposing whot wos hidden on the other side.
Is soothing the throb- bing poin
THAT... WASN'T THE RIGHT TIME FOR IT.
HELLO!
Excuse me.
I'M SURE HE'LL BE RIGHT BACK, SO GO AHEAD AND WAIT IN THERE.
HUH? I JUST SAW AKIMOTO.
OH, FUTABA. HI!

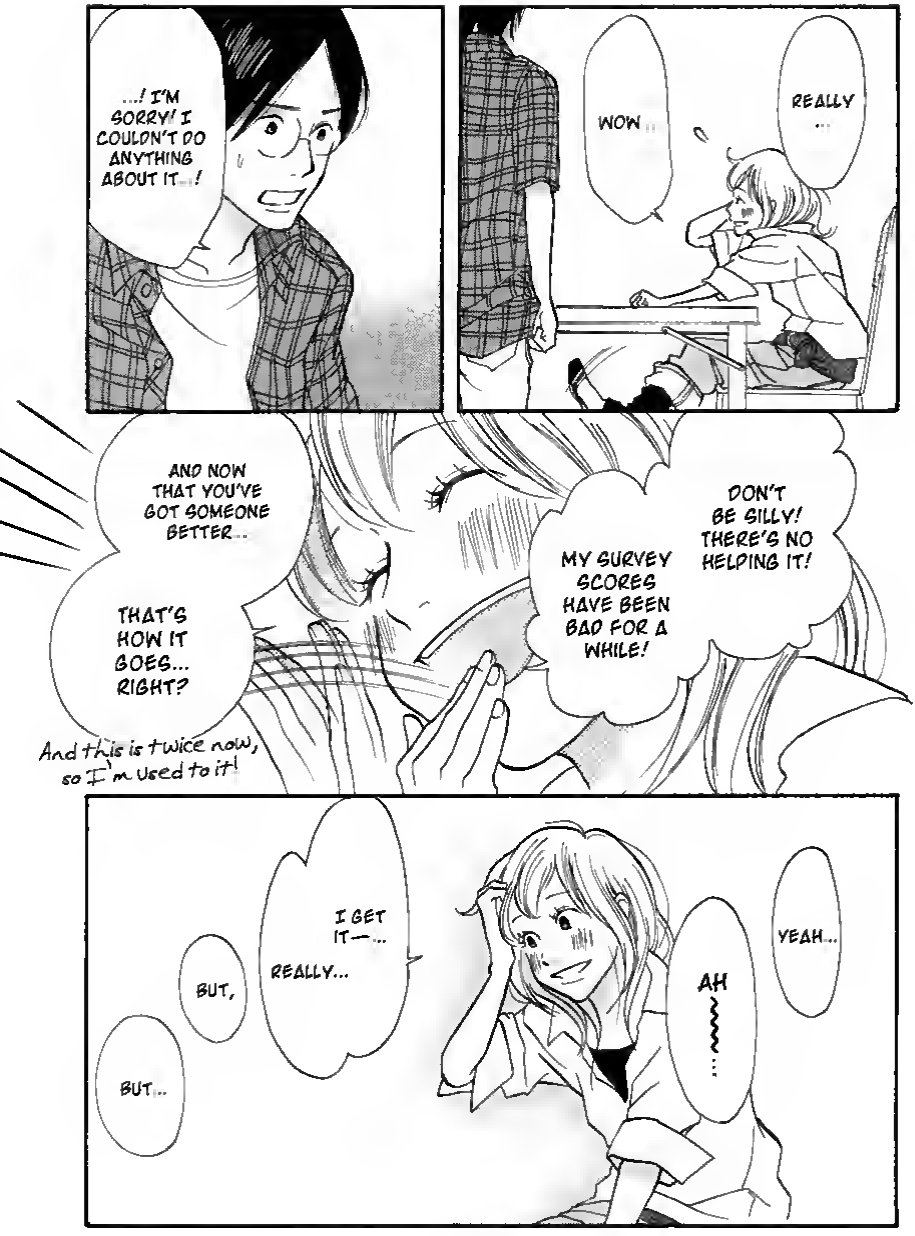
I should still have time for my storyboard...
I WONDER WHAT'S UP? IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO SUDDENLY CALL ME OUT HERE
clack
AKIMOTO...
THERE'S A LOT OF BUZZ ABOUT "FIRST PLANET".
Yeah, yeah
Haa
Huh
Huuh
THE NEWBIE WHO DEBUTED THIS MONTH...?
BUT IT'S A DISASTER FOR FUTABA...
THAT VOICE..
IT'S NOGUCHI
YEAH, LOOKS LIKE IF WE PUT SOME WORK INTO IT, IT'LL REALLY SELL

WE ONLY HAVE SO MUCH SPACE, AFTER ALL.
HAA...
squish
SSST!

YEAH, THANKS.
?
flip
flop
OH, AKIMOTO! FUTABA'S HERE
I SENT HER TO THE BOOTH.
Huh.?
THE BOOTH !?
THANKS FOR WAITING, FUTABA.
I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE OUR MEETING OUT TODAY.
.....
FUTABA
AKIMOTO, DID YOU CALL ME HERE TODAY

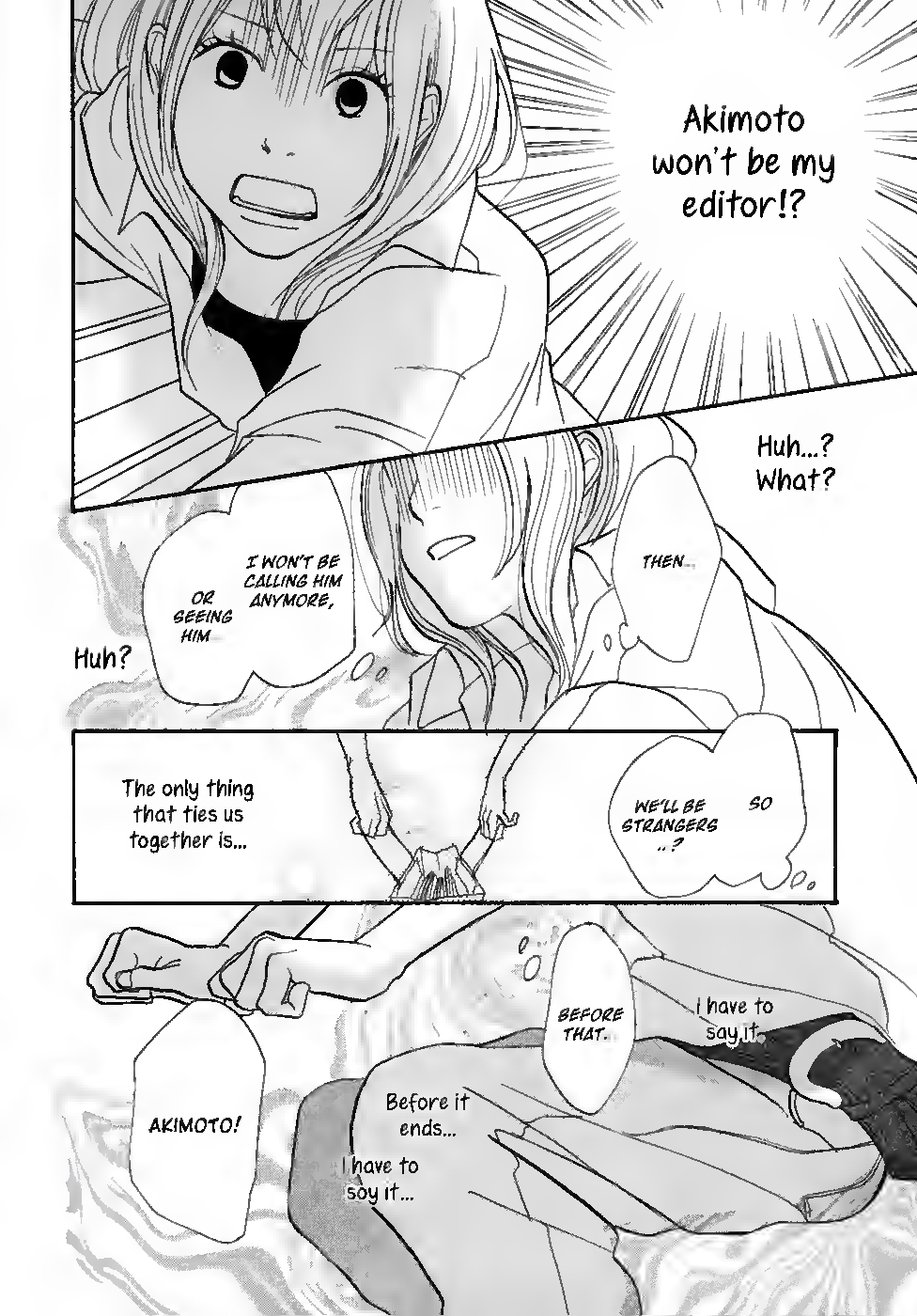
TO TELL ME... MY SERIES IS CANCELLED...?
.....H...


Aha!
AH—— ... SO IT'S TRUE...
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT...?


...! I'M SORRY! I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...!
WOW...
REALLY...
AND NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT SOMEONE BETTER...
THAT'S HOW IT GOES... RIGHT?
And this is twice now, so I'm used to it!
MY SURVEY SCORES HAVE BEEN BAD FOR A WHILE!
DON'T BE SILLY! THERE'S NO HELPING IT!
BUT...
BUT,
I GET IT—...
REALLY...
AH
YEAH...

I WORKED SO HARD...
I ACTED SO CONFIDENT, BUT IT WAS HOPELESS..
I'M SORRY..
JUMP
.....
.....
AA
AH!
COOK

WHAT ABOUT EDITORS?
.....AH...
I'M REALLY SORRY. I'M THE ONE WHO WANTED TO BE YOUR EDITOR, AFTER ALL.
Akimoto
THEY DECIDED TO HAVE ANOTHER EDITOR REPLACE ME.


Akimoto won't be my editor!?
Huh...? What?
THEN...
I WON'T BE CALLING HIM ANYMORE,
OR SEEING HIM
Huh?
The only thing that ties us together is...
WE'LL BE STRANGERS ..?
SO
BEFORE THAT.
I have to say it.
AKIMOTO!
Before it ends...
I have to say it...

I have to say it!!
I LIKE YOU.
Ah.
HUH?
.....
I

I MADE A HUGE MISTAKE.
I WENT HOME AFTER THAT TO ESCAPE... WHAT WAS I THINKING? AKIMOTO..
Ah! My mom's coming in from the country today!
HUH!? Futaba!?
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION, TOO...
THAT'S RIGHT. I..
Hyuh..
WHAT'S A GIRL DO WHEN SHE COMES CLEAN WITH HER FEELINGS AND ONLY GETS A "HUH" IN REPLY!?
"HUH", HE SAYS!

I GOT AXED... AGAIN...
Sniff
WHAT NOW...?
slide
throb
throb
Squish
OH... IT MELTED.
throb
I thought it hurt.
throb
Do Not Eat
COOL
Ouuuu
I SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER ONE.
throb
throb
clack
THERE IT IS.
throb
throb
vanilla
Cold Pack
COOL
.....
throb
throb
vanilla
Cold Pack
COOL

throb
clack
Enough already...
throb
throb
throb
Today I'll just hide in this pain...
THROB
THROB
THROB

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
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CHAPTER 18
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PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP...
.....
Shirt First Star 2003 Summer Festival
creak
clack
WELL... I'LL CALL AGAIN LATER...

A MESSAGE
LEAVE
PLEASE
12
9
3
6
Message
I'd like to meet about the final chapter. Please let me know when would be convenient for
click click
WHAT!?
AFTER THE BEEP...
12
9
6
STAFF
SHE'S GONE!?
STAFF

YEAH! YESTERDAY I SAID SOME HARSH THINGS TO HER, SO SHE WAS SULKING.
OH —— BUT DON'T YOU THINK SHE'LL COME RIGHT BACK?
I GUESS... IT SEEMED LIKE SHE'D CALMED DOWN A LOT, TOO〜〜
BUT WHEN I THINK THAT SHE MIGHT'VE GOTTEN INTO AN ACCIDENT..
AN ACCIDENT? NO WAY..
IT'S HARD LOOKING AFTER A CAT.
Sniff
Yeah
A cat!?

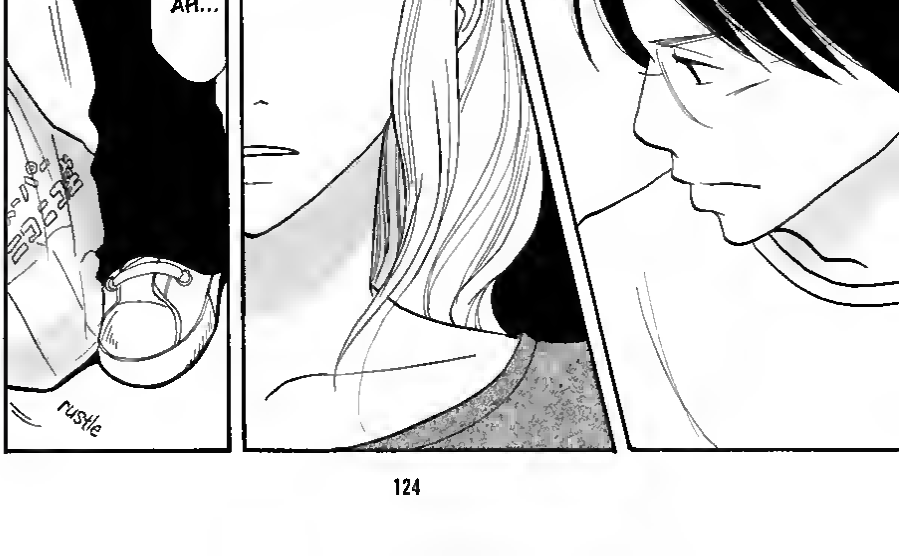
I'VE GOT TO GET TO A MEETING!
DASH
What's with you, Akimoto?
HMPh.
rustle
rustle
rustle
PUS
SUPER SMILE MART
tic

AKIMOTO !?
AH...
FUTABA!
HUH... OH!
WHAT. ARE YOU DOING?
AH... NO...
THIS ISN'T... UM...
That's my apartment...
I was afraid I'd hear gas or something
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL YOU ALL MORNING, BUT COULDN'T GET THROUGH...
CALL ME?
rustle

THE HOSPI-TAL...?
I TURNED OFF MY PHONE WHEN I WAS AT THE HOSPITAL THIS MORNING!
OH!
THIS IS...
OH, NO
WHAT HAPPENED!? WHAT'S THAT?
.....
IT'S REALLY NO BIG DEAL, BUT I WENT JUST IN CASE...

DID YOU...
2013 サマーフェスタ
COME HERE BECAUSE
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME?
AH... UM..
WELL... YEAH..
...BUT...
!

WHEN I'M NO LONGER YOUR EDITOR, I WON'T COME HERE.
BUT...


AH...
rustle

I KNOW! YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT AGAIN AND AGAIN~~!
OH... S... SORRY!
WHAT?
HUH?
H44
AWH~~ GEEZ~~
YOU REALLY ARE TOO HONEST.
I KIND OF.. EXPECTED THAT..
BUT I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU..
Yeah...

I gat the final notice...
It'll be aver saan...
UM... THEN I'LL WAIT FOR YOUR STORY-BOARD.
YEAH..
UM.. SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.
At a time like this,
I can't think af a single caal parting phrase...
I REALLY AM...

HUH?
End
This final chapter
Thanks for the support

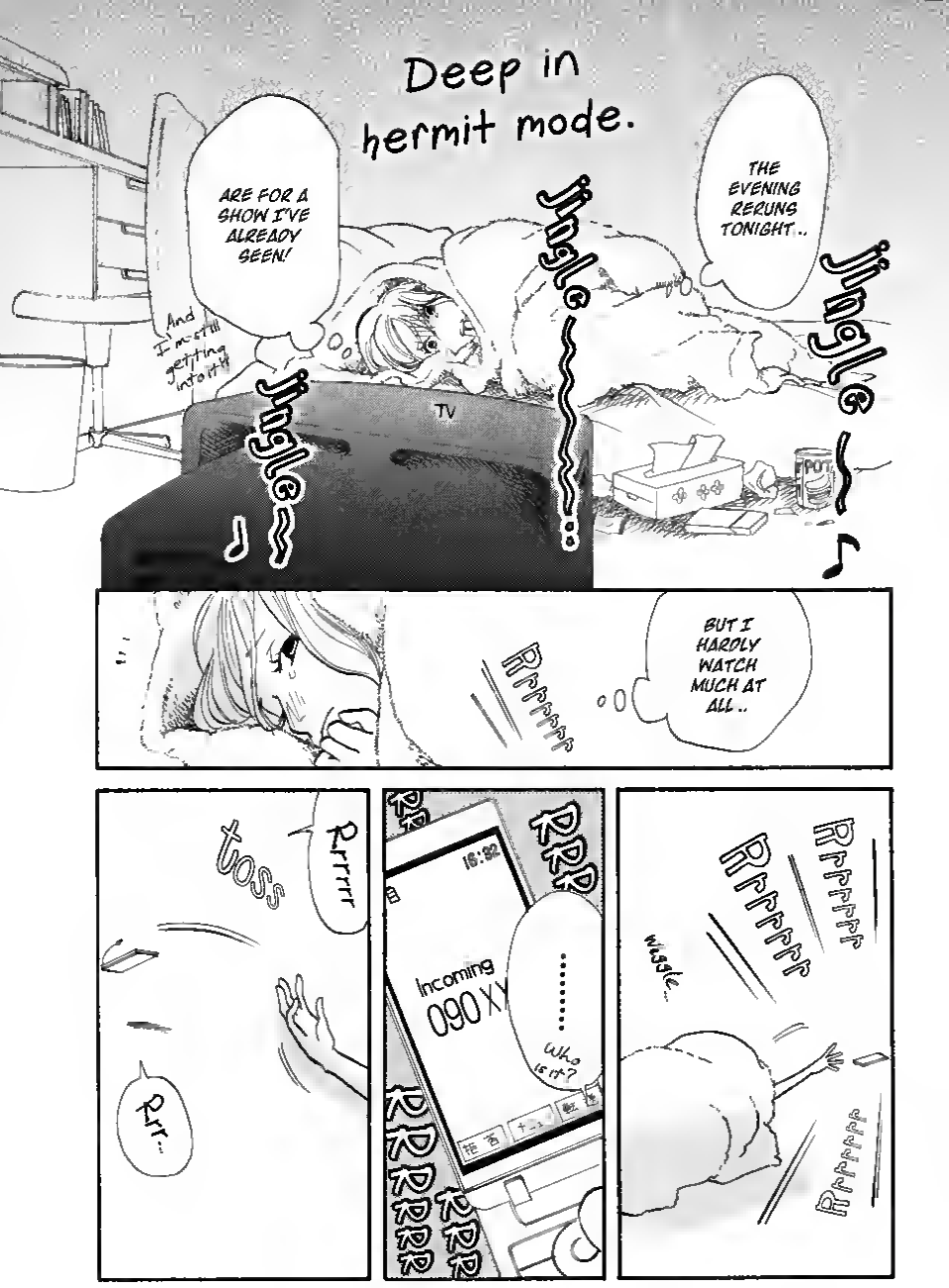
FUTABA'S SERIES IS OVER.

A PHONY MANGA ARTIST...

Here, the extra copy
FW IP
IT WAS CANCELLED.
IT WAS CAN-CELLED...
...THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE...
METEOR
She was pretty down when she came here to assist the other day...
I WONDER WHAT FUTABA WILL DO NEXT...
Let's see if I got it right!
OH, GREAT WORK!
"METEOR" IS PROBABLY OUT OF SPACE FOR HER.
SHE'S HAD TWO SERIES CANCELLED NOW.

UM?
PARDON ME!
WELL, I DID SAY SHE SEEMED LIKE THE TYPE
WHO'D QUIT OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT
There you go with that again...
Hmph
Morning!
Morning!
Ding
Dong
Ding
THIS MINOR CHARACTER... DID TOMO DRAW HER?
NO, FUTABACCHI DID
THE CHARACTER DESIGN IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!!
WHAT!?
YEAH—

Tomaaaa, what about tea?
...HUH...
SHE'S GOOD AT THEM.
SO I HAD HER DO THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERS.
SHE'S TERRIBLE WITH SCENERY.
♪ jingle jingle ~
♪ jingle jingle ~
CRAP...


Deep in hermit mode.
ARE FOR A SHOW I'VE ALREADY SEEN!
And I'm still getting into it!!
THE EVENING RERUNS TONIGHT..
Jingle~~~~...
Jingle~~♪
Jingle~♪
TV
BUT I HARDLY WATCH MUCH AT ALL..
Rrrrrr
Rrrrrr
Rrrrrr
wiggle...
Rrrrrr
Rrr...
toss
Rrrrrr
16:52
Incoming
090 XX
.....
who is it?
RRR
RRRRRR
RRR

RRRRR
...HELLO...
AH, IS THIS FUTABA TOWAKO?
?
YES?
THIS IS OONO FROM "MONTHLY LUSSY".
?
WE MET AT KOGOROU'S FOR THAT MOVIE .
OH!
!
BUT CAN YOU MEET ME TOMORROW?
——SO, I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN,

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
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CHAPTER 19
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episode.19

DRAW... SOMEONE ELSE'S STORY...?
OR ARE YOU AVERSE TO ILLUSTRATING SOMEONE ELSE'S STORY?
OH! NO. I NOT AT ALL...
YES. THE WORK IS BY A POPULAR AUTHOR,
AND I THOUGHT YOU'D BE PERFECT FOR IT...
Manly Lussy
Tomorrow Atop the Hill
Script
Kishitani Kaoru

THIS IS A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF YOUR SKILL.
BUT THE GAME STORY WILL COME OUT COMPLETELY DIFFERENTLY DEPENDING ON THE SKILL OF THE ARTIST.
I GET IT.
BUT... YEAH. HONESTLY, I LIKE TO CREATE THE STORIES MYSELF, TOO.
FUTABA
.....
smile
Grin
Your series in "Meteor" is on hold for now.
This is the perfect chance for you to try something new!
<Translation> Your series was CANCELLED and since you're probably DOING NOTHING, you should take the job without being so PICKY about it.
AH!

IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, I CAN GIVE THE STORY TO ANOTHER ARTIST
tug
BESIDES,
flip
THERE... IS THAT...
ARE YOU SURE, FUTABA?
THIS...
jolt
AH..
IS A GAME OF MUSICAL CHAIRS.

RAAahh
STOMP
IT'S NOT JUST ONE OR TWO PEOPLE SCRAMBLING FOR THIS CHAIR.
STOMP STOMP
shake shake
AND
STOMP
STOMP
AH, HOLD ON!
I'LL TAKE IT!

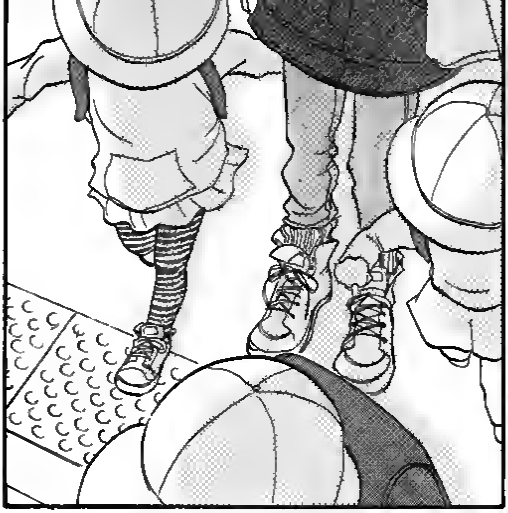
THE CHAIR ISN'T FOR "FUTABA TOWAKO".
HUH?
THIS— IS A COPY OF KOGOROU'S NEW CHAPTER
Swish
Watching!
OH... THOSE ARE THE CHARACTERS I DREW...
FUTABA, COULD YOU DRAW IT IN THIS STYLE?

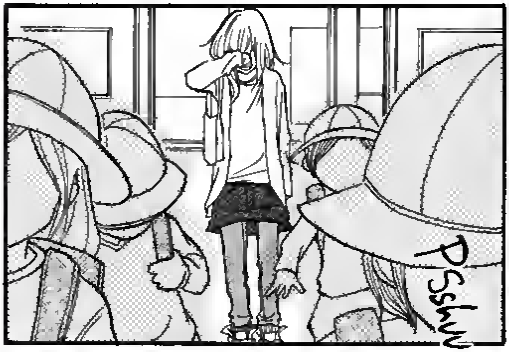
MENU
WE DON'T WANT "FUTABA TOWAKO'S" ART FOR THIS STORY.
YEAH
THAT ISN'T "FUTABA TOWAKO'S" ART—.
Clench
...TH...
I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE A PEN NAME AND DRAW IT AS IF YOU WERE A NEW ARTIST.
AH...
ISN'T THAT GOING A BIT TOO FAR!?
YOU THINK?

WHAT'S ESSENTIAL TO A GOOD MANGA
ISN'T THE WRITING ABILITY OF A NOVELIST, OR THE DRAWING ABILITY OF AN ILLUSTRATOR
IT'S MANGA POWER.
THAT'S WHAT I WANT FROM YOU, FUTABA.
MANGA POWER
.....
BESIDES...

ANYONE COULD DRAW IT IN ANY STYLE,
BUT IT'S REALLY UP TO WHAT THE READERS LIKE.
I HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT.
WHEE!
WHEE!
AHA HA
WHY DID YOU TAKE IT?
Rainbow Night
Furuhata Tsuzuko

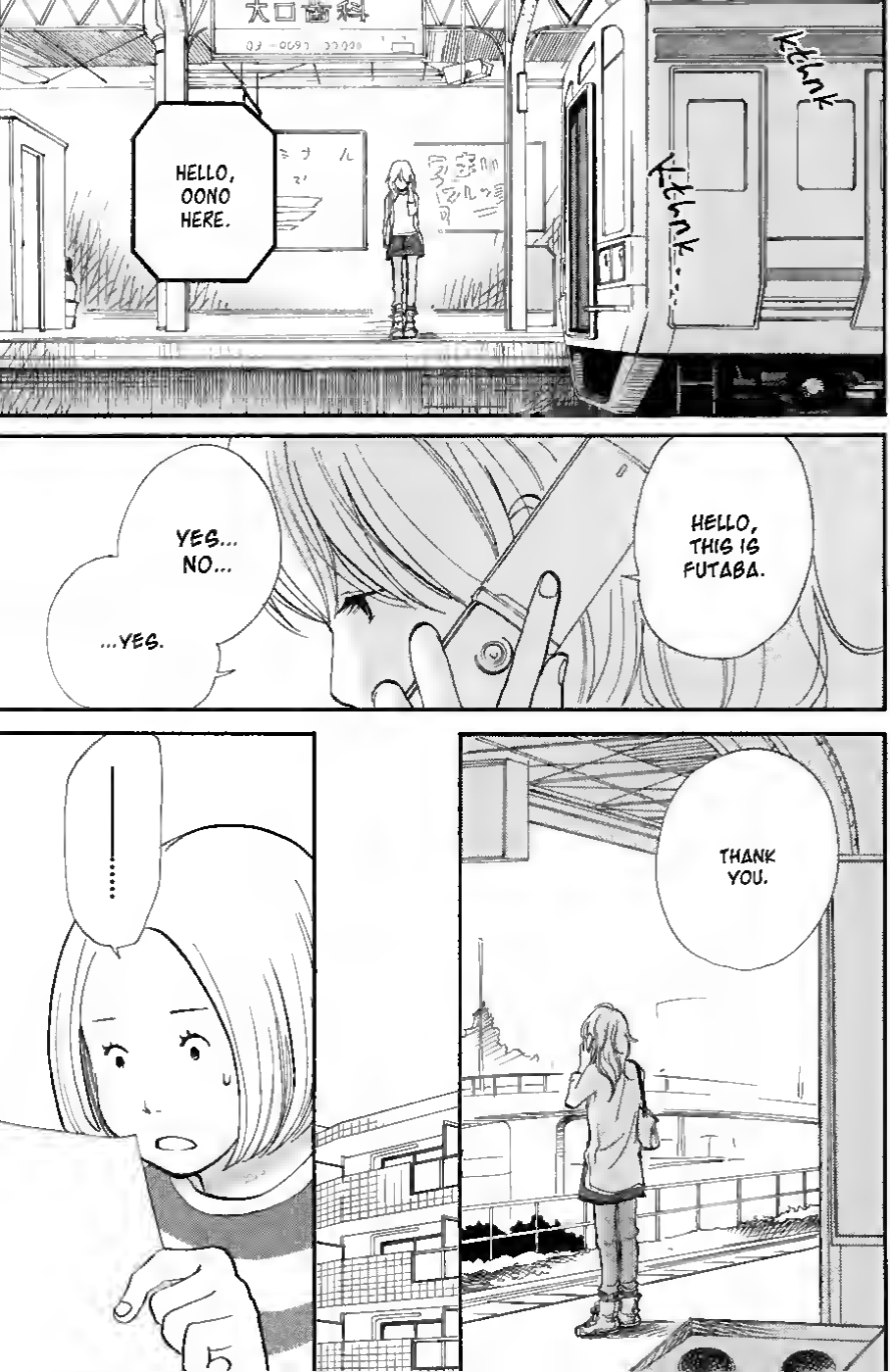
WAH!
TOWA'S MANGA ALL TO MYSELF!!
Sob
BUT...
I_I WANTED...
sniff
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WORK KINOSHITA PUT INTO DRAWING THAT? HM?
sniff... BECAUSE
NOW, NOW
UGH
WAAH
I'M SORRY!
"FUTABA" TOWAKO, THE ARTIST.
Kino shita towako
Rainbow Night
Futaba Towako
LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE YOUR FIRST BIG FAN!
Camp



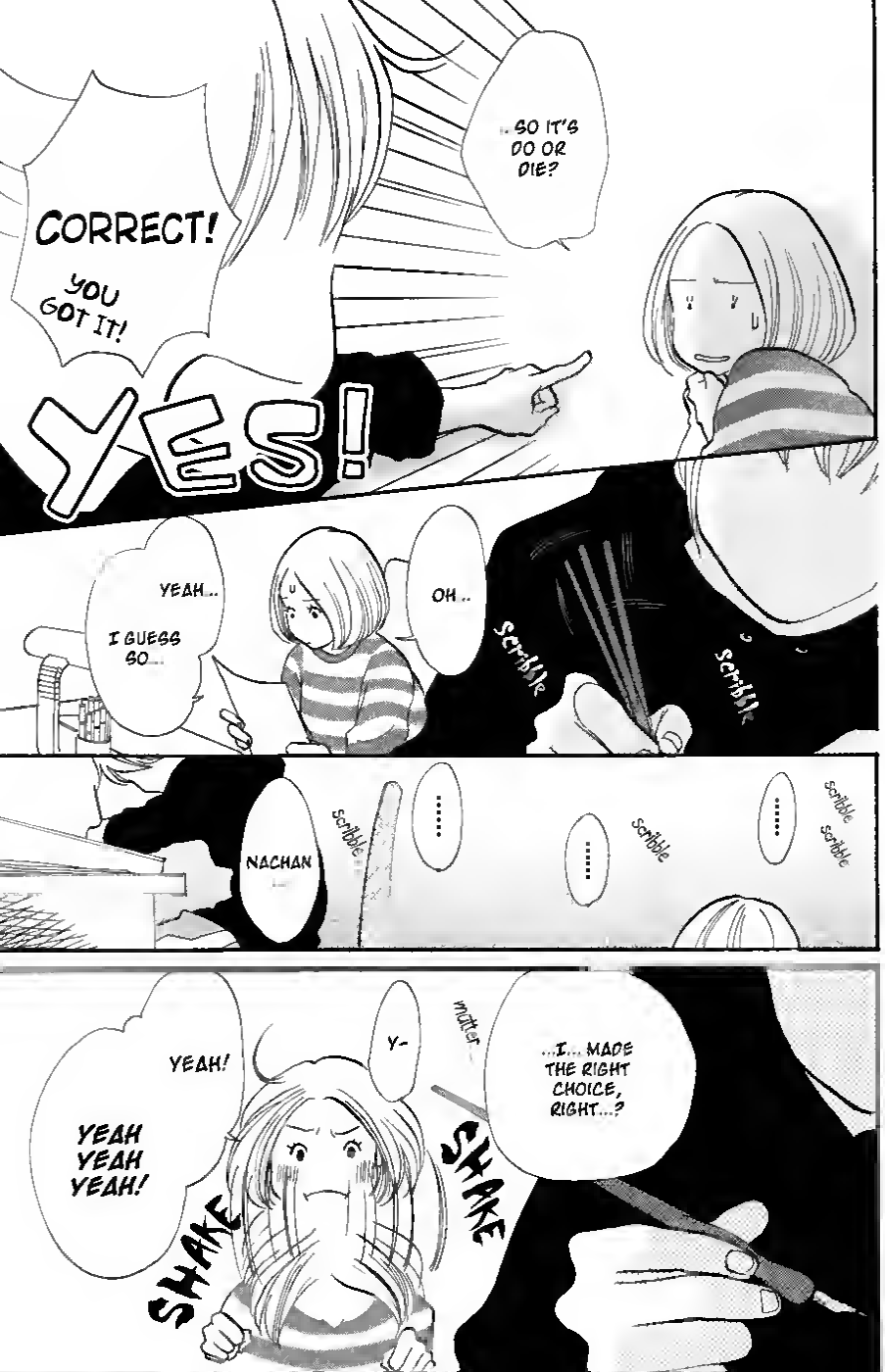

PSSHW

DOORS ARE CLOSING.

THE TRAIN IS ARRIVING ON TRACK THREE.
PLEASE STAY BEHIND THE WHITE LINE...


HELLO, OONO HERE.
KLUNK
KLUNK...
HELLO, THIS IS FUTABA.
YES... NO...
...YES.
.....
THANK YOU.

DO A WHITE WESTERN-STYLE HOUSE ATOP THE HILL, FROM A LOW ANGLE.
FUTABA, WHAT...
Hello
NACHAN!
~~~NO, NOT THAT...
WILL I QUIT DRAWING MANGA TO STAY FUTABA TOWAKO?
OR WILL I QUIT BEING FUTABA TOWAKO TO KEEP DRAWING MANGA.?
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER!
~~~


..SO IT'S DO OR DIE?
CORRECT!
YOU GOT IT!
YES!
YEAH..
I GUESS SO...
OH..
Scribble
Scribble
NACHAN
Scribble
.....
Scribble
.....
Scribble
Scribble
.....
...I... MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, RIGHT...?
mutter
Y-
YEAH!
YEAH YEAH YEAH!
SHAKE
SHAKE

HEHE. NO, YOU'RE JUST SO DEPEND-ABLE...
IT'S GREAT.
WH-WHAT!?
AHA HA HA HA HA!
Hah!
THAT'S RIGHT, THE BAKERY ON THE CORNER OPENED.
OH, REALLY!?
LET'S GO TODAY!
WAIT, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT DOING THIS AS "FUTABA"?
AH...
...WELL, ACTUALLY...

OH, THAT'S A CUTE BRACELET
IS COFFEE OK?
SURE
THANKS
AH, HEY! THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK.
Monthly Lassy
...THANKS
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU USUALLY HEAR FROM AN EDITOR..
He's different
AKIMOTO WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE IT...
Spacey
Sluggish
.....
——..SO, LET'S GET RIGHT TO IT.

YOU'RE FIRST PLACE
IN THE READER SURVEYS.
IT'S A HUGE ACHIEVE-MENT FOR A BRAND NEW ARTIST!
The featured series in our holiday edition!
This... is a good thing, right?
This should be a good thing, right?
Oh, and your new pen name "Kinoshita Orange" is kind of...
Uh...
You sure?

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"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
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CHAPTER 20
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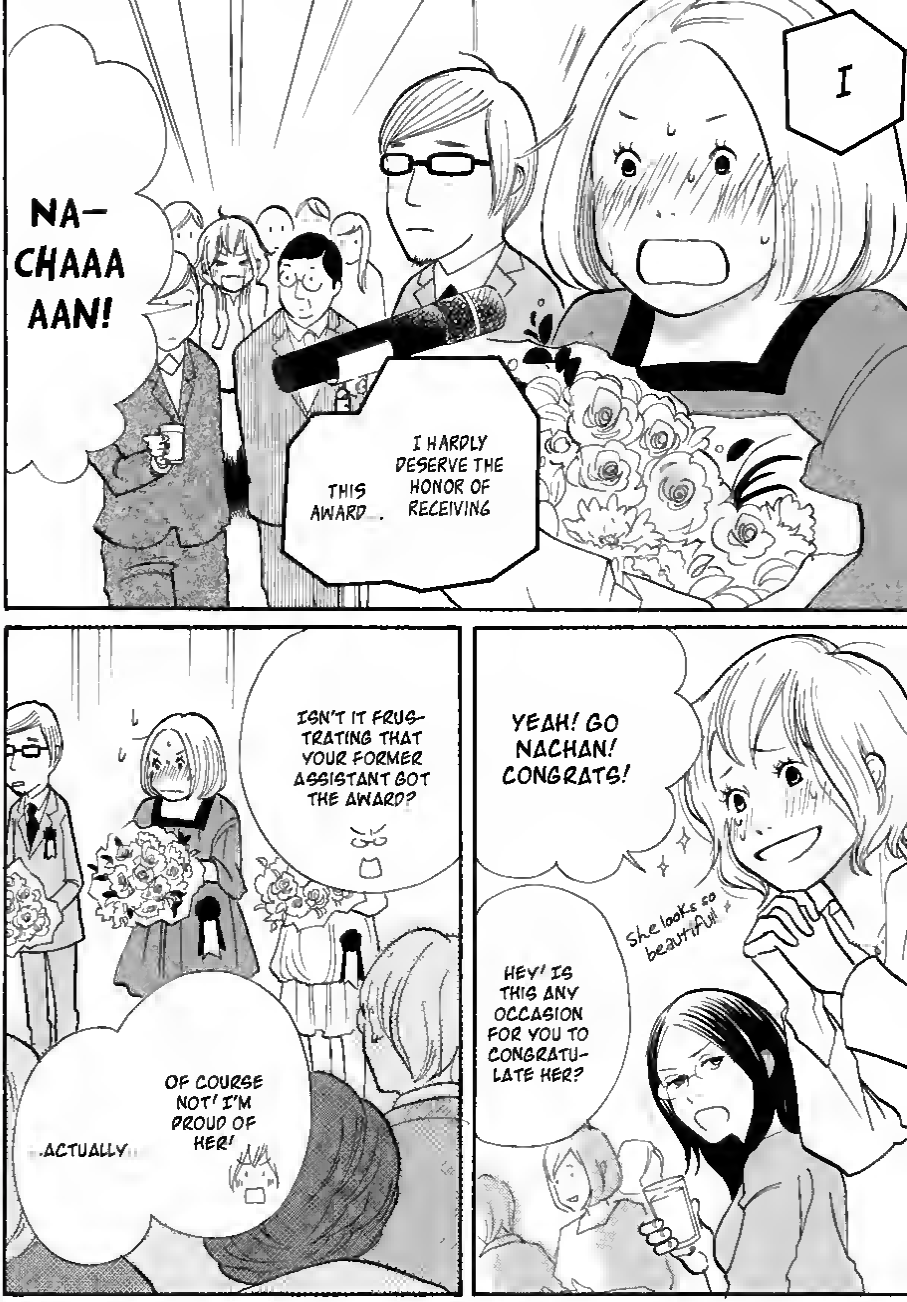
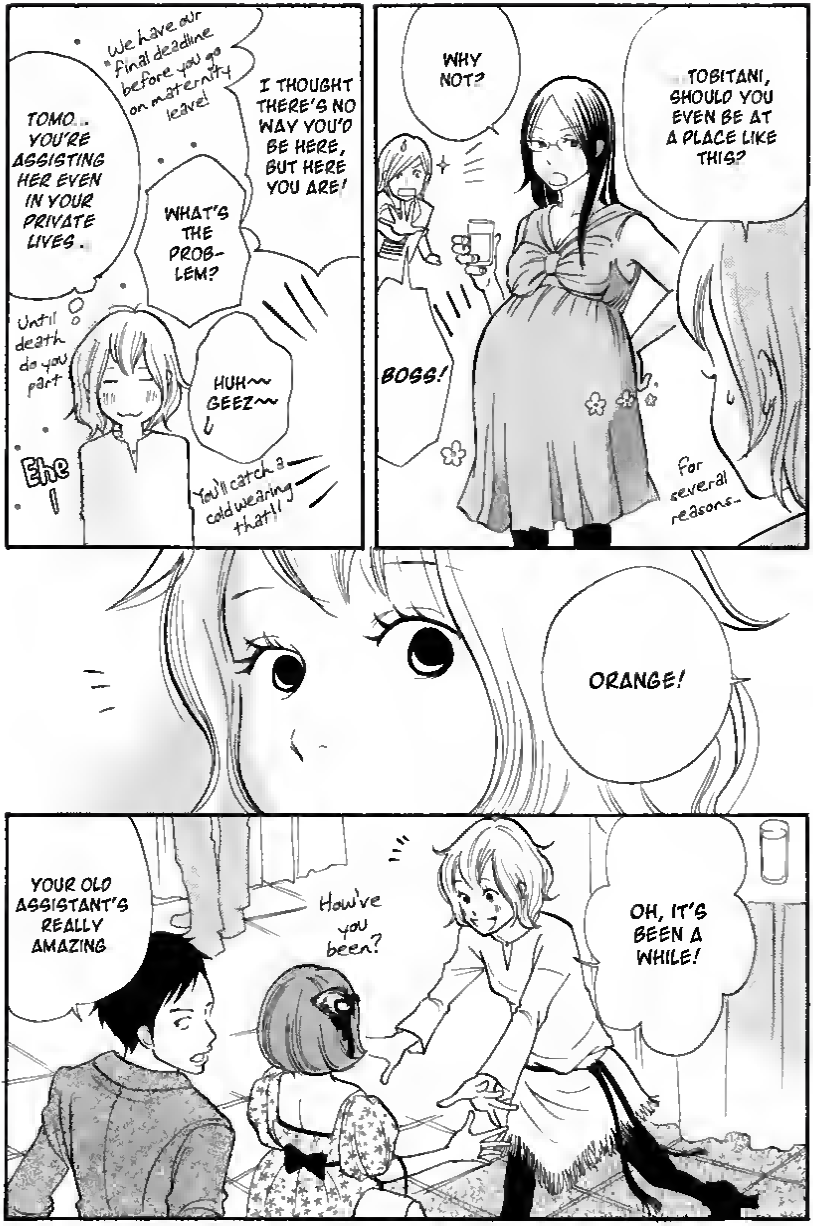
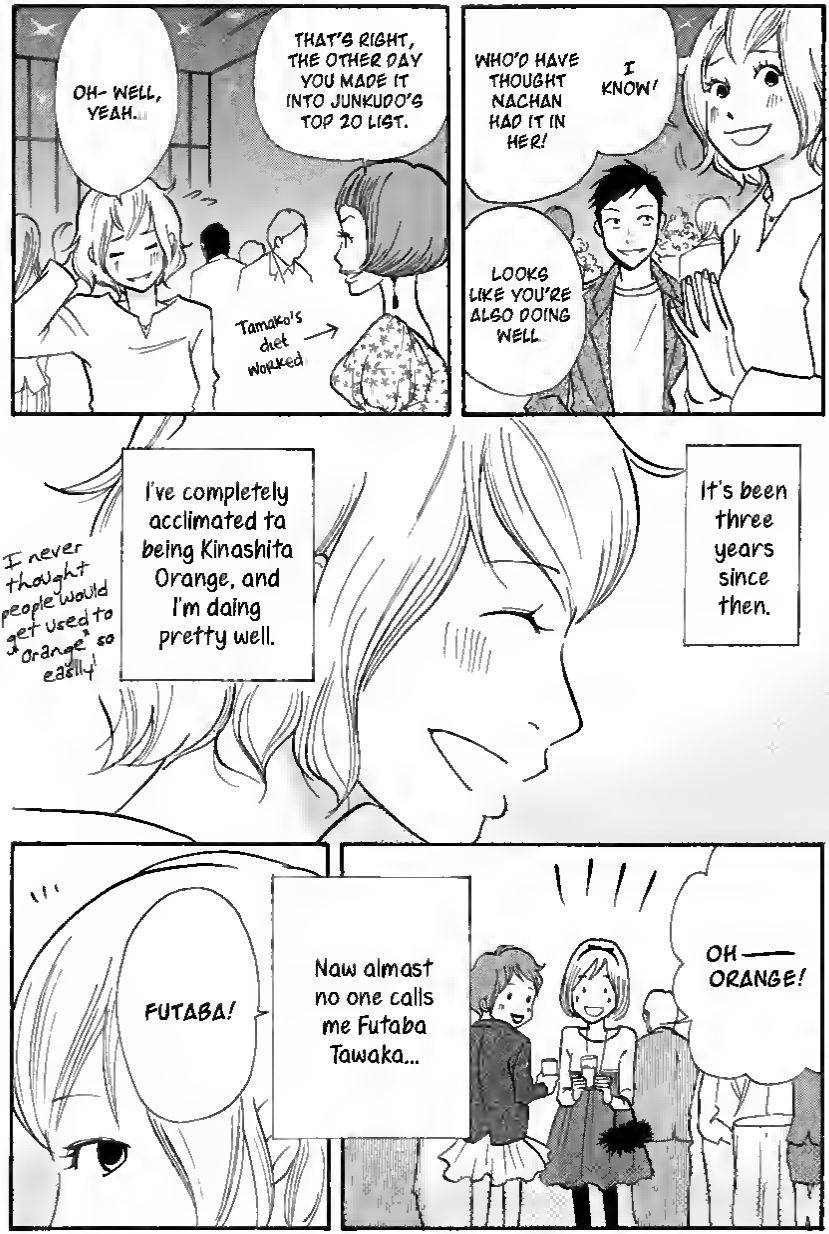
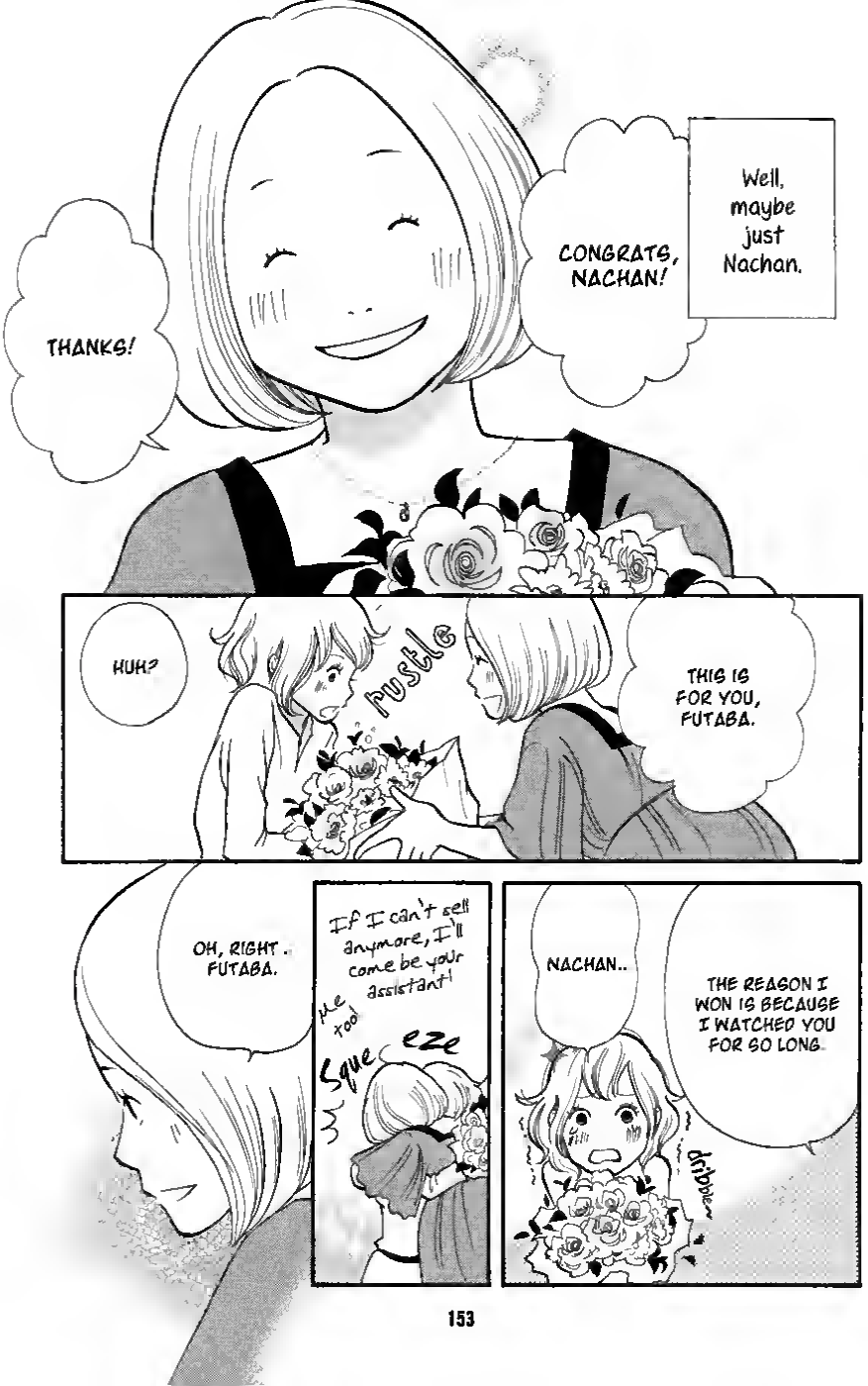
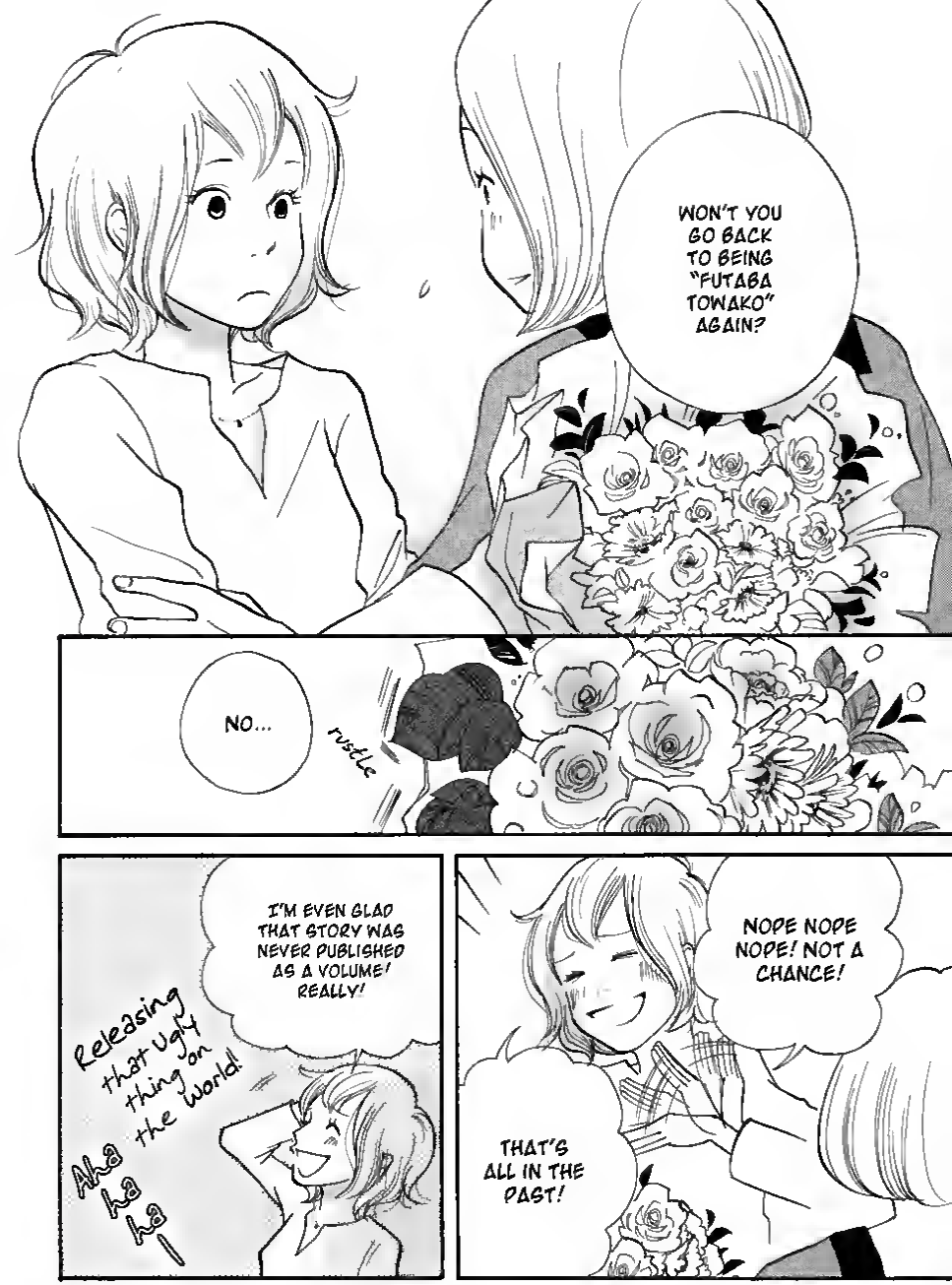
50th Annual Manga Awards Celebration
CONGRATU-LATIONS!
EACH OF THE AWARDEES WILL NOW HAVE A MOMENT TO SAY A FEW WORDS.
!!!
bdump
bdump
bdump

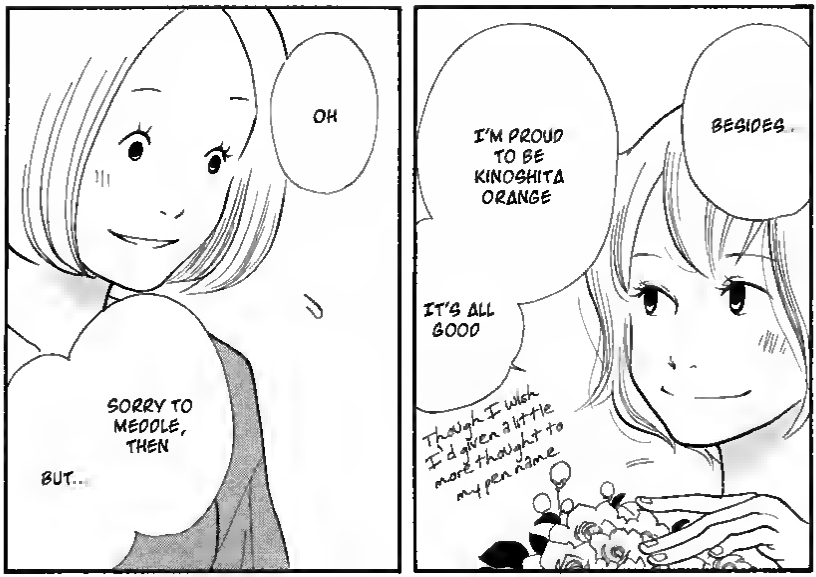

I
NA–
CHAAA
AAN!
I HARDLY DESERVE THE HONOR OF RECEIVING
THIS AWARD...
ISN'T IT FRUSTRATING THAT YOUR FORMER ASSISTANT GOT THE AWARD?
OF COURSE NOT! I'M PROUD OF HER!
...ACTUALLY
YEAH! GO NACHAN! CONGRATS!
She looks so beautiful!
HEY! IS THIS ANY OCCASION FOR YOU TO CONGRATULATE HER?


We have our final deadline before you go on maternity leave!
I THOUGHT THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D BE HERE, BUT HERE YOU ARE!
TOMO... YOU'RE ASSISTING HER EVEN IN YOUR PRIVATE LIVES.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
Until death do you part
HUH~~ GEEZ~~
Eh?
You'll catch a cold wearing that!!
WHY NOT?
TOBITANI, SHOULD YOU EVEN BE AT A PLACE LIKE THIS?
BOSS!
For several reasons...
ORANGE!
YOUR OLD ASSISTANT'S REALLY AMAZING
How've you been?
OH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!


OH- WELL, YEAH...
THAT'S RIGHT, THE OTHER DAY YOU MADE IT INTO JUNKUDO'S TOP 20 LIST.
Tamako's diet worked
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT NACHAN HAD IT IN HER!
I KNOW!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALSO DOING WELL.
It's been three years since then.
I've completely acclimated ta being Kinashita Orange, and I'm daing pretty well.
I never thought people would get used to "Orange" so easily!
FUTABA!
Naw almost no one calls me Futaba Tawaka...
OH— ORANGE!


Well, maybe just Nachan.
CONGRATS, NACHAN!
THANKS!
THIS IS FOR YOU, FUTABA.
pustle
HUH?
NACHAN..
THE REASON I WON IS BECAUSE I WATCHED YOU FOR SO LONG.
dribble
If I can't sell anymore, I'll come be your assistant!
me too!
Sque eze
OH, RIGHT. FUTABA.


WON'T YOU GO BACK TO BEING "FUTABA TOWAKO" AGAIN?
NO...
rustle
I'M EVEN GLAD THAT STORY WAS NEVER PUBLISHED AS A VOLUME! REALLY!
Releasing that ugly thing on the world!
Aha ha ha!
NOPE NOPE NOPE! NOT A CHANCE!
THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST!


OH
SORRY TO MEDDLE, THEN
BUT..
I'M PROUD TO BE KINOSHITA ORANGE
BESIDES,
IT'S ALL GOOD
Though I wish I'd given a little more thought to my pen name.

I'M FUTABA'S FAN, AFTER ALL...

ORANGE, ARE YOU OK?
I drank too much
Ugghhh-— I'm going to go home.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GOING TO THE LUSSY AFTER-PARTY?
THANKS ..
THEN I'LL GO GET YOUR THINGS. WAIT HERE.

I bet everyone here draws manga they can call their own, right?
The heck...
bustle
bustle
HAA
FUTABA?

OH,
I KNEW IT!
AH... AKIMOTO!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE!

I WENT FREELANCE, SO I WORK WITH THIS PUBLISHER NOW TOO.
OH... REALLY...
AKIMOTO.
WH-
WHY'RE YOU HERE!?
Uh Uh Uh Uh...
It's Akimoto...
FUTABA, ARE YOU OK?
Are you drunk?
OH.. RIGHT, YOU'RE KINOSHITA ORANGE NOW.
I'M FINE..
My head was spinning.
OF.. OF ALL PEOPLE HE'S HERE.

I'VE BEEN READING YOUR WORK. IT'S GOOD.
Of all people...
FUTABA...
YOUR ASSISTANT DID WELL.
.....
congrats

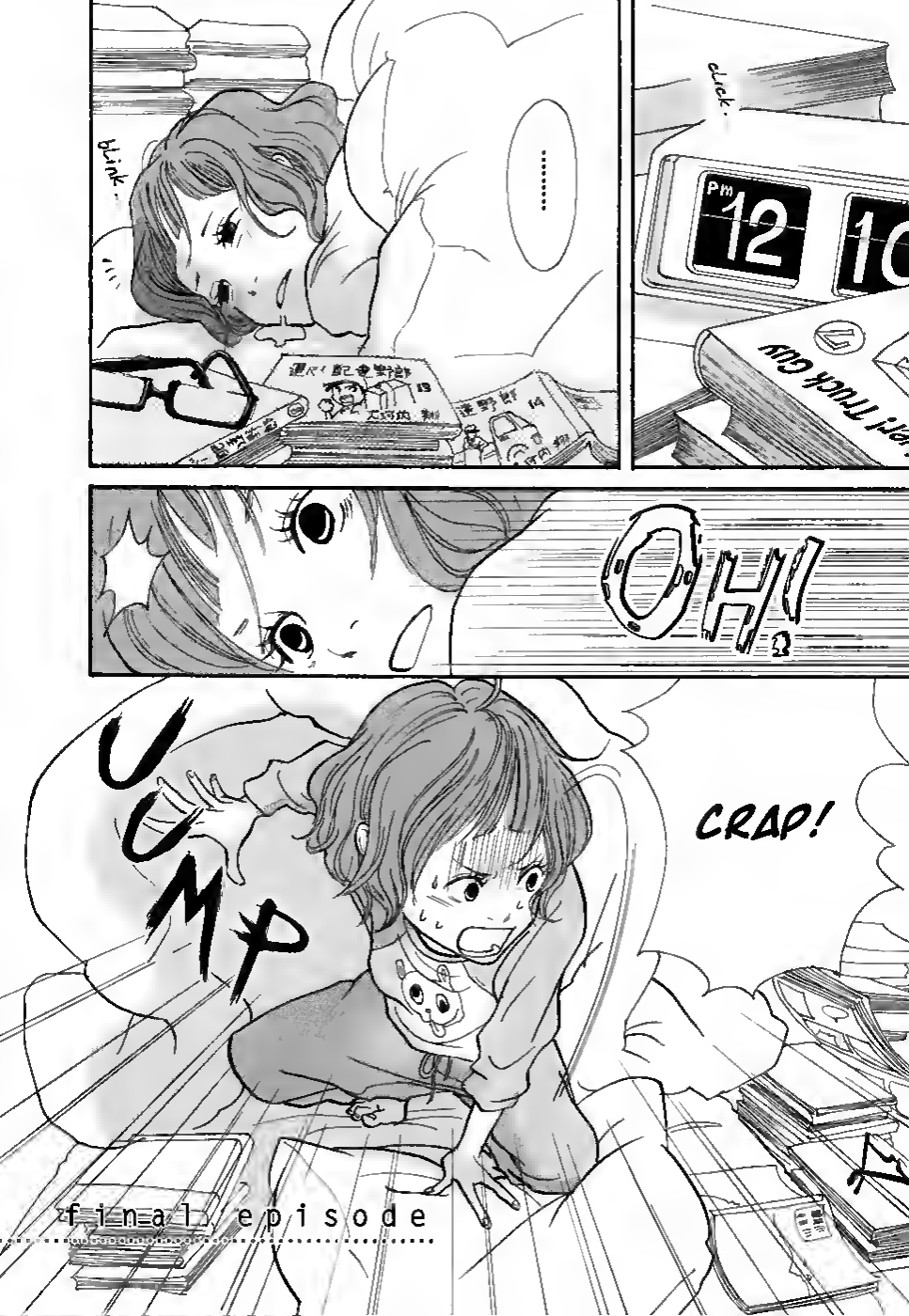
YOU KNOW ..
I CUT MY HAIR!!
Damn you!
YOU SEEM A LITTLE DIFFERENT
DID YOU GAIN WEIGHT?
SOMETHING LIKE THIS.. HAPPENED BEFORE .
OH...

THREE YEARS ALREADY, HUH, FUTABA...
YOU TOLD ME, AKIMOTO!
...HUH?
YOU SAID YOU'RE THE ONLY EDITOR FOR ME!!
BACK THEN!!
BUT!!
YOU BROKE THAT PROMISE, DIDN'T YOU!?
YOU STOPPED BEING MY EDITOR, AND I...
WHAT WAS FUTABA TOWAKO SUPPOSED TO DO!?
YOU LIAR!
LIAR!!!

She looks drunk
What's that?
IT'S OK I KNOW YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE
I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH
SORRY!
FU FUTABA, I..
THAT'S NOT TRUE
IF IT'S NOT TRUE...
THEN HELP ME NOW, AKIMOTO...

I WANT TO DRAW MANGA.
MY NAME IS FUTABA TOWAKO.

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
BY NEMU YOUKO
CHAPTER 21
Scans & translations
Kalendel
Raw preps: ayase
Editing: Ximena
QC: Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com


blink...
.....
click...
Pm
12
10
OH!
JUMP
CRAP!
final episode

IF ONLY YOU'D COME TEN MINUTES SOONER
SHE ALREADY LEFT!?
ha ha ha
Haa
Sun Sun Books
LB1
• Comics
• Doujinshi
• Comic
AAAH~~
NOW AN ANIME
FIRST PLANET
I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME, REALLY
GAH, I WANTED TO GET HER AUTOGRAPH AND SHAKE HER HAND AND TAKE A PICTURE WITH HER~~
Maybe exchange emails~~
WAS SHE PRETTY!? HOW OLD WAS SHE!?
WHAT WAS SHE LIKE!?
grab
Nag
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE LATE!
Sorry!
poke
Ah!
NAG
LISTEN, YOU!
THE ARTISTS DON'T TOUR BOOKSHOPS SO THE STAFF CAN ENJOY THEM!
DESPITE THAT, YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS!
NAG

YOU POSER.
YOU GOT YELLED AT~~~
PHEW-
SLAM
SHRINKWRAP THOSE AUTOGRAPHED VOLUMES AND PUT THEM OUT WITH THE SIGNED PRINTS!
THERE'S ONE ARTIST WHO HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART!
HEY.. DON'T CALL ME A POSER!
oh!
Shining Babe
Futaba Towako
After four years of silence, now out as a volume!
Futaba Towako
They've returned!
FUTABA TOWAKO!
Editor
秋元 仁
Akimoto Hitoshi
THANKS, SUN SUN BOOKS
FUTABA TOWAKO

Miryuu College Entrance Exams
FOUR YEARS AGO...
Huh... reminiscing?
IT'S THANKS TO FUTABA THAT I GOT INTO COLLEGE!
WHAT!?
I'VE GOT NO HOPE ON THE MATH, SO I HAVE TO SCORE WELL ON THE LANGUAGE SECTION~~

Something like this-
THE KANJI FOR SHINING! I'VE SEEN THAT KANJI A LOT! I KNOW I KNOW IT!!
AHHH HH~~~
WHERE WAS IT, WHERE WAS IT...
Write the kanji on the line
shining
04
Enlightenment
Shining
煌々
いいなぁ…
俺だわ…
HUH? THAT'S YOUR REASON?
Ever since that day, I've owed a debt of gratitude to that manga.
And also, don't read manga the day before entrance exams!
I HAD A FLASHBACK TO THE ISSUE OF "METEOR" I'D READ THE DAY BEFORE
Yes!

Sounds like you'd annoy her
I WANTED TO LET HER KNOW HOW HAPPY I AM AND THANK HER FOR BACK THEN!
BESIDES...
ALL THIS TIME I'VE WANTED "SHINING BASEBALL" AND ITS SEQUEL "SHINING LEAGUE" TO BE PUBLISHED AS VOLUMES!
WHAM
IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE THEN!
I WANTED TO TELL HER DIRECTLY...
THAT SHE'S GOT FANG THAT WAITED FOUR YEARS FOR IT.
I re-read the whole set of "Deliver! Truck Guy" yesterday.
And don't come to work late!
HURRY AND GET TO WORK!
TAKASUGI.

Boy's Cor
ALRIGHT!
You've been waiting too, right!?
Futaba Towako's passionate springtime story now ON SALE!!
Shining Baseball
Signed Copy
WHAT!? YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF FUTABA TOWAKO!?
WHO'S THAT?
Boy's Corner
OH, THEY'VE GOT ONES SIGNED BY FUTABA TOWAKO!
OH!
Lucky me!
SHE'S NOT NEW, THOUGH
SHE'S NEW, BUT SHE'S PRETTY GOOD.
I'll let you borrow it once I've read it
SHE'S NOT NEW.

FUTABA TOWAKO ISN'T A NEW ARTIST.
OH! OONO! ♡
SHE'S A PROMINENT MAINSTREAM ARTIST WHO WAS GROOMED AND GUIDED BY A CERTAIN EDITOR.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU TODAY?
But I'd recommend this one.
Oh?
Tomorrow Atop the Hill
Kunohata Orange
Story
Kuhotani Kaoru
I WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, SO CAME TO SEE HOW IT'S GOING.
Essay Manga
Don't cry The shocking finale!
Kogo pov's Haina Manga
Tobitani Kogorou
"I married manga. Parenting? Seems like an affair." <Self Quote>
Tomorrow Atop the
Kunohata Orange
Story
Kuhotani Kaoru
At last, the final volume——! Where will they end up after their struggles are over ?
BOTH OF THEM ARE SELLING WELL!
RED REALLY WAS THE BEST CHOICE FOR THE SASH
It stands out the best.
AHH ♡ I JUST LOVE GOOD EDITORS ~~♡

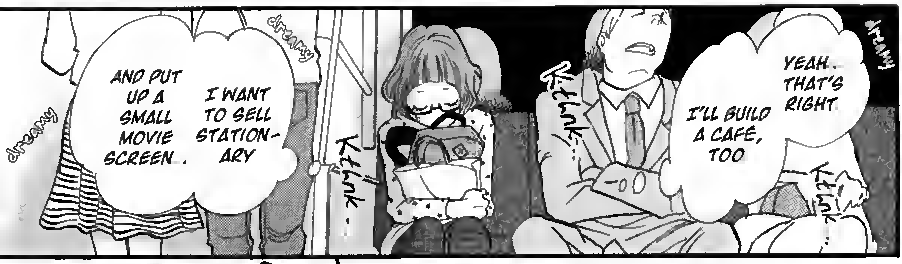
DID KINOSHITA STOP DRAWING FOR "LUSSY"?
NO... THAT'S NOT IT
!!!
STILL, I'M SURPRISED THAT "TOMORROW ATOP THE HILL" ENDED AT VOLUME SEVEN.
KINOSHITA ORANGE DIED.
Huh!
Kidding..?
JUST KIDDING WITH YOU.

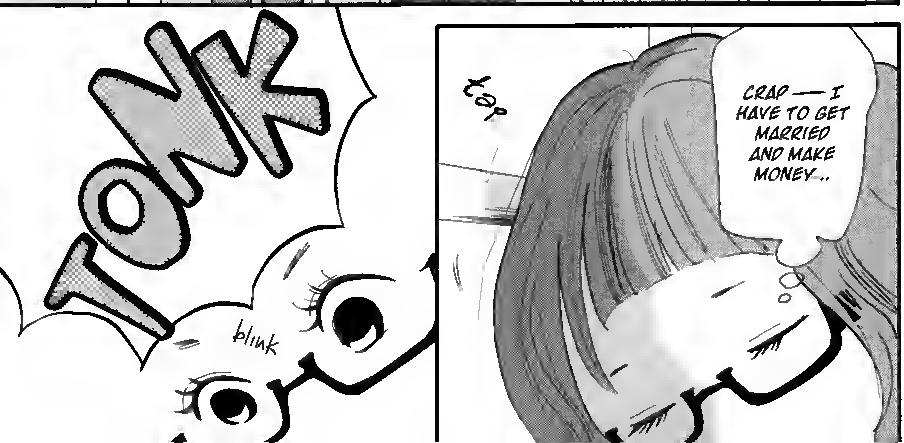
NO, MAYBE...
IT WAS ME WHO KILLED HER IN THE FIRST PLACE...
?
Scary~
BUT ANYWAY, THIS NEW ARTIST OF OURS COMING OUT IS AMAZING!
He's mine!
LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
WINK
[Business Mode]
!
PLEASE PUT IT OUT IN A GOOD SPOT~~
bump

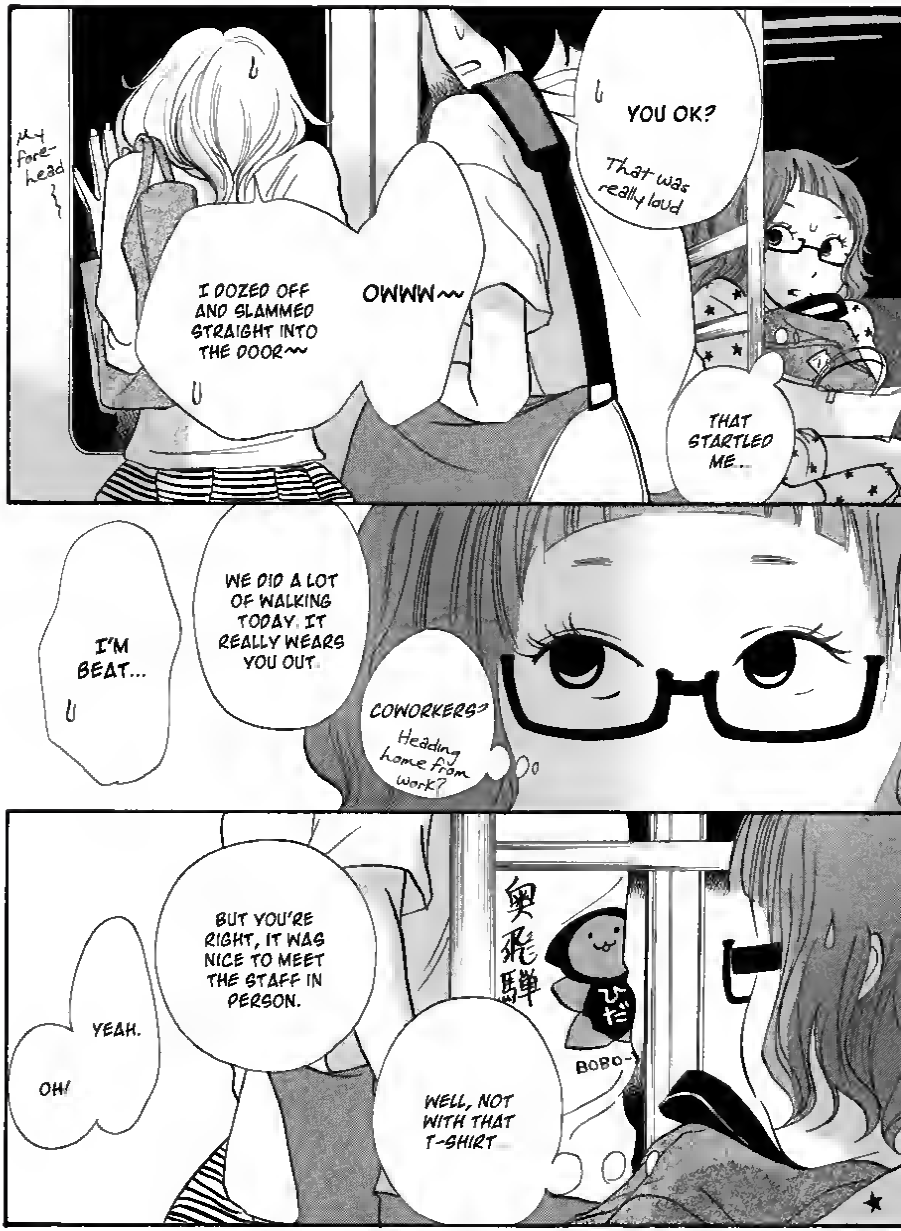
You've been awaiting too, right!?
Futaba Towako's passionate springtime story now on SALE!
Slide...
Tomorrow Atop the Hill
Kanoluta Orange
Shinin
Futaba Towako
After four years' absence, now out as 1 volume!
.....
Yup, I'll look forward to it!
SEEYA
This much
should be OK...
Haaa
I BOUGHT FIVE NEW BOOKS TODAY!
I WANT TO GET HOME QUICK AND READ THEM
Thanks for today!
SUN SUN BOO
Excited
excited

.....
When I buy a house,
I'm going to build a manga room.
I'll put LOOOOTS OF MANGA IN THERE.
STUFF IT FULL OF OLD ONES AND NEW ONES!
I'll let the neighbor-hood kids come and use it.
I'LL CALL IT LIKE THE "MANGA MANSION",
AND THEY'LL CALL ME THE "MANGA LADY"...

I'LL GET ALL THE KIDS ADDICTED TO MANGA.
WON'T THAT MAKE THIS WORLD AN EVEN BETTER PLACE?


dreamy
YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT
I'LL BUILD A CAFE, TOO
Kthnk...
dreamy
I WANT TO SELL STATION-ARY
AND PUT UP A SMALL MOVIE SCREEN.
dreamy
Kthnk...

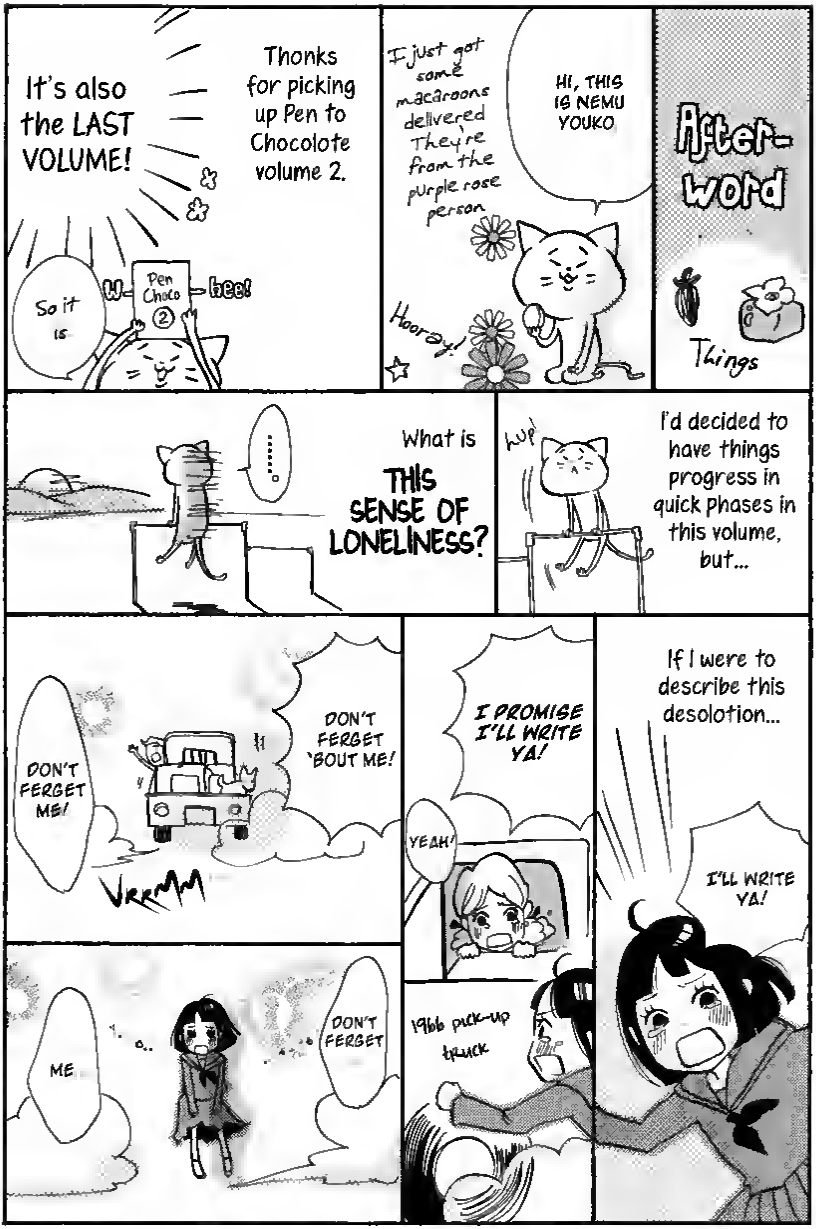

CRAP — I HAVE TO GET MARRIED AND MAKE MONEY..
tap
TONK
blink

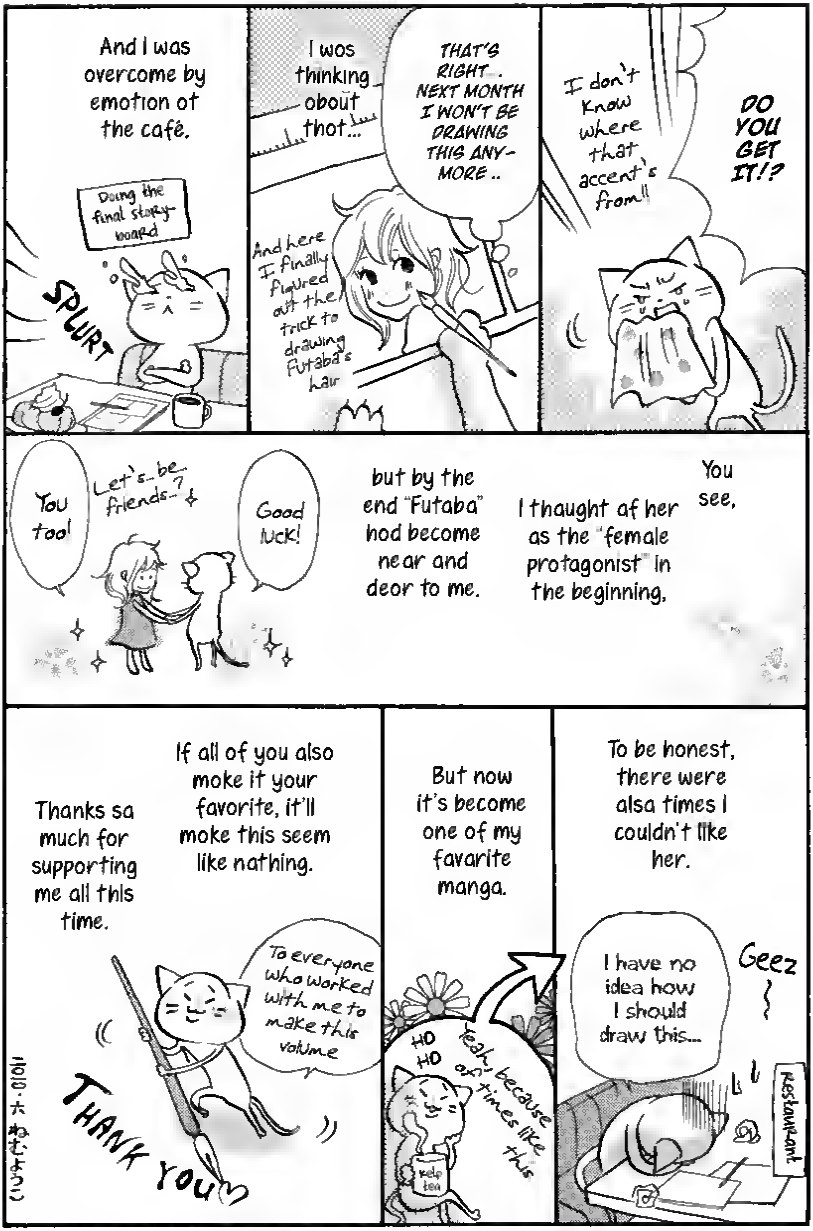

My forehead
I DOZED OFF AND SLAMMED STRAIGHT INTO THE DOOR~
OWWW~
YOU OK?
That was really loud
THAT STARTLED ME...
I'M BEAT...
WE DID A LOT OF WALKING TODAY. IT REALLY WEARS YOU OUT.
COWORKERS?
Heading home from work?
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, IT WAS NICE TO MEET THE STAFF IN PERSON.
YEAH.
OH!
WELL, NOT WITH THAT T-SHIRT
奥飛騨
BOBO-

LET ME..
THAT'S GETTING RED...
TAKE A QUICK LOOK AT IT...
SEEMS LIKE YOU'LL BE OK.
WELL, SO LONG AS YOUR RIGHT HAND IS OK...
Kthnk...
YOU'RE TERRIBLE.
Kthnk...
GAH, WHAT THE...

Well, let's rest up.
swish—
THEY'RE A COUPLE..?
I WONDER IF OONO HAS A GIRLFRIEND..
rustle
Shining Baseball
Dammit, I'm reading the manga!
LOOKS NICE. I WANT A BOYFRIEND
HUH? I WONDER WHY...
I REALLY WANTED HER AUTOGRAPH...
swish—
AKIMOTO, THAT GIRL NEXT TO US WAS LOOKING AT YOUR SHIRT.
奥菅輝
BOBO-TAN

PEN AND CHOCOLATE
END


It's also the LAST VOLUME!
Thonks for picking up Pen to Chocolate volume 2.
So it is
W-
Pen Choco ②
bee!
I just got some macaroons delivered They're from the purple rose person
HI, THIS IS NEMU YOUKO
Hooray!
After-word
Things
.....
What is THIS SENSE OF LONELINESS?
I'd decided to have things progress in quick phases in this volume, but...
DON'T FERGET ME!
DON'T FERGET 'BOUT ME!
VRRMM
I PROMISE I'LL WRITE YA!
YEAH!
If I were to describe this desolation...
I'LL WRITE YA!
1966 pick-up truck
ME
DON'T FERGET


And I was overcome by emotion at the café.
Doing the final story board
SPURT
I was thinking about that...
THAT'S RIGHT... NEXT MONTH I WON'T BE DRAWING THIS ANY-MORE..
And here I finally figured out the trick to drawing Futaba's hair
I don't know where that accent's from!!
DO YOU GET IT!?
You see,
I thought of her as the "female protagonist" in the beginning,
but by the end "Futaba" had become near and dear to me.
Let's be friends-?
You too!
Good luck!
Thanks so much for supporting me all this time.
If all of you also make it your favorite, it'll make this seem like nothing.
To everyone who worked with me to make this volume
THANK YOU
But now it's become one of my favorite manga.
HO HO
Yeah, at times like this
To be honest, there were also times I couldn't like her.
I have no idea how I should draw this...
Geez
Restaurant
2010.2 ねむようこ

THANKS TO MY EDITOR M-SAMA I'M SO GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO GET THIS PUBLISHED!!